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MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

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NEARBY

Metro ridership is at the highest in two years

BENGALURU

With more people returning to their workplaces, the patronage of Namma Metro is slowly but steadily returning to pre-pandemic levels. Daily average ridership on weekdays is around 3.8 lakh, with Mondays being busier than usual.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Fake number plates posing a challenge

BENGALURU

Motorists being pulled up for traffic violations they claim they did not commit are increasingly becoming more common. Senior traffic police officials at the TMC acknowledged the problem.Police personnel on duty admitted that many complaints were genuine.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 5

Macron set to lead France again

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron was on course on Sunday to win a second term by defeating far-right leader Marine Le Pen in presidential elections, projections showed.

Mr. Macron was set to win 57-58.5% of the vote compared with Ms. Le Pen's41.5-43%, according to projections by polling firms for French television channels based on a sample of the vote count.

The result is narrower than their second-round clash in 2017, when the same two candidates met in the run-off and Mr. Macron polled over 66% of the vote.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 12

Days of misery over, PM tells J&K youth

Modi inaugurates projects estimated at ₹20,000 crore

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Sunday that Kashmiri youth of today would not suffer the miseries that the previous generations in the Valley had gone through.

He was inaugurating development projects estimated at ₹20,000 crore aimed at "reducing *Dilli saey doori* (distance from Delhi)".

Speaking on National Panchayati Raj Day in Samba district, Mr. Modi said, "I want to tell the youth of J&K to have faith in my words. You will not see the miseries witnessed by your parents and grandparents. I promise I will make it happen."

He said the "*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*" initiative in the past eight years had been to reduce distances, whether '*Dilli ki doorian*' or "cultural or linguistic distances", while drawing a parallel to the richness of Dogri language and culture.

Mr. Modi had first used the phrase '*Dil ki aur Dilli saey doorian* (distances of hearts and from Delhi)' at a meeting with J&K parties last year in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Giriraj Singh and Jitendra Singh and J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha at Palli in Samba district on Sunday. • PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

PALLI CARBON NEUTRAL ▸ PAGE 9

After a hiatus, household consumer spending survey to resume in July

It helps arrive at estimates of poverty levels

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey, usually conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every five years, is set to resume this year after a prolonged break.

India has not had any official estimates on per capita household spending, used to arrive at estimates of poverty levels in different parts of the country and to review economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), since 2011-12. The government had junked the findings of the last Survey, conducted in 2017-18, citing "data quality" issues.

Counting the spending | The All-India Households' Consumer Expenditure Survey will be conducted between July 2022 and June 2023

What is it? Usually carried out every five years, the survey helps assess poverty levels and consumption patterns across the country, and rebase GDP calculations

What's the big deal? The last survey whose findings were made public was conducted in 2011-12

Why this long pause? A survey was conducted in 2017-18 too, but its results were not released owing to 'quality' concerns. It reportedly reflected the first drop in monthly per capita household spending since 1972-73, with a rise in poverty incidence

"A decision has been taken to conduct the Survey from July and we have begun planning exercises to train the enumerators who will carry out the 2022-23 Survey on the ground," an official aware of the development told *The Hindu*. Typically, the Survey is conducted between July and June and this year's exercise is expected to be completed by June 2023.

Estimates of household monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) and the distribution of households and persons over different MPCE classes, based on the Survey, may only become available about a year after the field work is completed. The results will include separate data sets for rural and urban parts, and also splice spending patterns for each State and Union Territory, as well as different socio-economic groups.

Starting mid-May, field enumerators have been asked to attend training sessions to ensure that interviews with households across urban and rural India are conducted sensitively and the data gleaned effectively.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Three LeT militants killed in J&K

Two Pakistanis among the trio, police say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, two of them Pakistanis, were killed in an anti-militancy operation in Pulwama of south Kashmir on Sunday afternoon.

The slain militants were identified as Arif Ahmad Hazar, alias Rehan, deputy of LeT's top commander Basit; Abu Huzaifa, alias Haqqani, a Pakistani terrorist; and Natish Wani, alias Haider, a resident of Khanyar, Srinagar.

The trio was encircled during a joint cordon-and-search operation of the police and Army (50 RR) in the said area. "The hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the search party, which retaliated effectively leading to an encounter," the police said.

Terming the operation "a big success", Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said, "Rehan was recruited by LeT ex-chief Abbas Sheikh and was part of killer group of slain terrorist Mehran. After the killing of Mehran, Basit became No. 1 and Rehan No 2."

According to the police records, Arif Hazar was involved in the killings of inspector Parvez in front of mosque at Menganwari Nowgam in 2021, sub-inspector Arshid Ahmad Mir in Khanyar, policeman Javaid Ahmad at Saidapora Eidgah and a mobile shop owner, Umar Nazir Bhat, at Main Chowk Habba Kadal.

Jahangirpuri takes a leap to peace

People from all communities join 'Tiranga Yatra'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a bid to spread a message of peace and communal harmony, large groups of residents of riot-hit Jahangirpuri on Sunday took out a 'Tiranga Yatra' in the area with shops and houses in the locality hoisting the Tricolour to commemorate the event.

The yatra started around 6 p.m. with both Hindu and Muslim residents seen holding the Tricolour and chanting slogans such as "*Hindu Muslim Sikh Isai aapas mein hai bhai bhai*" and "*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*".

The march, which consisted of both the elderly and children, started from the C-Block roundabout opposite Kushal Cinema, following which it went towards the B Block market. The crowd eventually headed towards the Hindu-majority G Block and ended the yatra, after around 30 minutes.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Free vaccine doses

10 In crore, the number of free Covishield doses that the Serum institute of India (SII) has urged the Centre to make use of in view of the rising cases. These doses were offered free of cost by GAVI under COVAX facility. The Pune-based firm has written to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that if these 10 crore free doses of Covishield were not taken by the Indian government on time, it will lead to wastage of potentially life saving vaccines. The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered has reached the 187 crore mark. PTI

COVID cluster grows

60 The number of COVID-19 cases at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M). The Health Minister Ma Subramanian, along with Principal Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan, inspected the IIT-M campus to take stock of the situation. Noting that the spread of the infection was largely under control in Tamil Nadu, Subramanian said the State was reporting nil fatalities for more than a month and appealed to the public "not to panic". The government has decided to hold a mega vaccination drive next month, he said. PTI

China increases tests

3 The number of COVID-19 tests that everyone living or working in Chayong, the largest district in Beijing, will require to take this week. The district is home to 3.45 million people. The Chinese capital reported 22 new cases for Saturday. Shanghai authorities battling an outbreak of COVID-19 have erected fences outside residential buildings, sparking fresh public outcry over a lockdown that has forced much of the city's 25 million people indoors. One video showed residents shouting from balconies at workers trying to set up fences. AP

Accident at refinery

80 The number of people killed in southern Nigeria following an explosion at an illegal oil refinery. The incident is the latest to hit oil-rich Nigeria in recent years. Pipeline fires are commonplace in Nigeria, in part because of poor maintenance but also because of thieves who vandalise pipelines to siphon off petrol and sell it on the black market. Crude oil is tapped from a web of pipelines owned by major oil companies. According to police, the explosion occurred late Friday between the southern oil states of Rivers and Imo. AFP

Mysterious disease

169 The number of cases of "acute hepatitis of unknown origin", reported from a dozen countries to the World Health Organization. The WHO says at least one death has been reported in connection with a mysterious liver disease outbreak affecting children in Europe and the U.S.. The cases were reported in children aged one month to 16 years old, and 17 of those who fell ill required liver transplants. WHO didn't say in which country the death occurred. The first cases were recorded in Britain. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Understanding the Olga Tellis judgment

How is the judgment relevant to the 'anti-encroachment' drive in Jahangirpuri?

THE GIST

- The *Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation* judgment in 1985 ruled that eviction of pavement dwellers using unreasonable force, without giving them a chance to explain is unconstitutional. It is a violation of their right to livelihood.
- The case started in 1981 when the State of Maharashtra and the Bombay Municipal Corporation decided that pavement and slum dwellers in Bombay city should be evicted and "deported to their respective places of origin or places outside the city of Bombay."
- The court had emphatically objected to authorities treating pavement dwellers as mere trespassers. "They (pavement dwellers) manage to find a habitat in places which are mostly filthy or marshy, out of sheer helplessness. It is not as if they have a free choice to exercise as to whether to commit an encroachment and if so, where."

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The story so far: A 37-year-old Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court which held that pavement dwellers are different from trespassers may become a game-changer in the Jahangirpuri case. The apex court ruled that pavement dwellers live on "filthy footpaths out of sheer helplessness" and not with the object of offending, insulting, intimidating or annoying anyone. They live and earn on footpaths because they have "small jobs to nurse in the city and there is nowhere else to live."

What is the Olga Tellis judgment?
The judgment, *Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation*, in 1985 by a five-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India Y.V. Chandrachud agrees that pavement dwellers do occupy public spaces unauthorised. However, the court maintained they should be given a chance to be heard and a reasonable opportunity to depart "before force is used to expel them."

One major question was whether eviction of a pavement dweller would amount to depriving him/her of their livelihood guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution

The Supreme Court reasoned that eviction using unreasonable force, without giving them a chance to explain is unconstitutional. Pavement dwellers, too, have a right to life and dignity. The right to life included the right to livelihood. They earn a meagre livelihood by living and working on the footpaths. A welfare state and its authorities should not use its powers of eviction as a means to deprive pavement dwellers of their livelihood.

What led to the judgment?
Sometime in 1981, the State of Maharashtra and the Bombay Municipal Corporation decided that pavement and slum dwellers in Bombay city should be evicted and "deported to their respective places of origin or places outside the city of Bombay." Some demolitions were carried out before the case was brought to the Bombay High Court by pavement dwellers, residents of slums across the city, NGOs and journalists. While they conceded that they did not have "any fundamental right to put up huts on pavements or public roads", the case came up before the Supreme Court on larger questions of law.

What were the questions discussed before the Supreme Court?
One of the main questions was whether eviction of a pavement dweller would amount to depriving him/her of their livelihood guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Article mandates that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law." The Constitution Bench was also asked to determine if provisions in the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act, 1888, allowing the removal of encroachments without prior notice, were arbitrary and unreasonable. The Supreme Court also decided to examine the question whether it was constitutionally impermissible to characterise pavement dwellers as trespassers.

What was the State government's defence?
The State government and the corporation countered that pavement dwellers should be estopped (estoppel is a judicial device whereby a court may prevent or "estop" a person from making assertions. Estoppel may prevent someone from bringing a particular claim) from contending that the shacks constructed by them on the pavements cannot be demolished because of their right to livelihood. They cannot claim any fundamental right to encroach and put up huts on pavements or public roads over which the public has a 'right of way.'

How did the Supreme Court rule?
The Bench threw out the government's argument of estoppel, saying "there can be no estoppel against the Constitution." The court held that the right to life of pavement dwellers were at stake here. The right to livelihood was an "integral component" of the right to life. They can come to court to assert their right. "If the right to livelihood is not treated as a part of the constitutional right to live, the easiest way of depriving a person of his right to life would be to deprive him of his means of livelihood to the point of abrogation... Any person who is deprived of his right to livelihood except according to just and fair procedure established by law, can challenge the deprivation as offending the right to life," the Constitution Bench observed.

Again, on the second question whether provisions in law allowing statutory authorities to remove encroachments without prior notice was arbitrary, the court held that such powers are designed to operate as an "exception" and not the "general rule." The procedure of eviction should lean in favour of procedural safeguards which follow the natural principles of justice like giving the other side an opportunity to be heard. The right to be heard gives affected persons an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and also provides them with a chance to express themselves with dignity, the court had observed.

Finally, the court emphatically objected to authorities treating pavement dwellers as mere trespassers. "They (pavement dwellers) manage to find a habitat in places which are mostly filthy or marshy, out of sheer helplessness. It is not as if they have a free choice to exercise as to whether to commit an encroachment and if so, where. The encroachment committed by these persons are involuntary acts in the sense that those acts are compelled by inevitable circumstances and are not guided by choice," the Supreme Court had reasoned. Besides, the court noted, even trespassers should not be evicted by using force greater than what is reasonable and appropriate. What is more, the court had said, a trespasser "should be asked and given a reasonable opportunity to depart before force is used to expel him."

Remnants of a living: Remains of a demolished shop in New Delhi's northwest Jahangirpuri neighbourhood on April 20. • AP

EXPLAINER

Towards a resolution of the Arunachal-Assam border dispute

What is the history behind the boundary issue between the two States? How do they plan to settle it?

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The story so far: Less than a month after the Union government gave the seal of approval to an agreement to partially resolve the disputed sectors on the Assam-Meghalaya border, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma decided to form district-level committees for settling their inter-state boundary disputes. This has set the ball rolling for the two States to address the issue on the basis of the "fifty-fifty" or "give-and-take" model Assam and Meghalaya followed for closure of the disputes in six of its 12 troublesome sectors.

Why does Arunachal Pradesh have a boundary dispute with Assam?
Assam has had boundary disputes with all the north-eastern States that were carved out of it. While Nagaland became a State in 1963, Meghalaya first became an Autonomous State in 1970 and a full-fledged State in 1972. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were separated from Assam as Union Territories in 1972 and as States in 1987. None of the new States accepted the "constitutional boundary" that they said was dictated by the partisan administration of undivided Assam without consulting the tribal stakeholders. They also claimed that the disputed areas were traditionally under the control of tribal chieftains before Assam, post-India's independence, inherited the "imaginary boundaries" drawn during British rule. The issue with Arunachal Pradesh has more to do with a 1951 report prepared by a sub-committee headed by Assam's first Chief Minister, Gopinath Bordoloi.

What is the genesis of the dispute?
Arunachal Pradesh and Assam have disputes at about 1,200 points along their 804 km boundary. The disputes cropped up in the 1970s and intensified in the 1990s with frequent flare-ups along the border. However, the issue dates back to 1873 when the British government introduced the inner-line regulation vaguely separating the plains from the frontier hills that were later designated as the North-East Frontier Tracts in 1915. This area became the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) in 1954, three years after a notification based on the 1951 report saw 3,648 sq. km of the "plain" area of Balipara and Sadiya foothills being transferred to the Darrang and Lakhimpur districts of Assam. Arunachal

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu during a meeting on April 20. • PTI

Pradesh has been celebrating its statehood on a grand scale with an eye on China since 1987, but what has been causing resentment is the inability of the people living in the transferred patches to join in the celebration. Leaders in Arunachal Pradesh claim the transfer was done arbitrarily without consulting its tribes who had customary rights over these lands. Their counterparts in Assam say the 1951 demarcation is constitutional and legal.

Did the two States try settling the boundary dispute earlier?
There were several efforts to demarcate the boundary between Assam and NEFA/Arunachal Pradesh between 1971 and 1974. To end the stalemate, a high-powered tripartite committee involving the Centre and the two States was formed in April 1979 to delineate the boundary based on Survey of India maps. About 489 km of the inter-state boundary north of the Brahmaputra River was demarcated by 1984, but Arunachal Pradesh did not accept the recommendations and staked claim to much of the areas transferred in 1951. Assam objected and approached the Supreme Court in 1989, accusing Arunachal Pradesh of "encroachment". The apex court appointed a local boundary commission in 2006 headed by one of its retired judges.

In its September 2014 report, this commission recommended that Arunachal Pradesh should get back some of the areas transferred in 1951 besides advising both the States to find a middle path through discussions. This did not work out.

What are the chances of a solution emerging this time?
The Assam-Meghalaya boundary agreement has raised hopes of the Assam-Arunachal boundary dispute being resolved, especially with the Centre egging the north-eastern States to end their territorial issues once and for all by August 15, 2022, when the country celebrates 75 years of independence. Moreover, there is a general belief that the region's sister-States are in a better position to fast-track the resolution since they are ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party with the same dispensation at the Centre. Following the model adopted in the exercise to resolve the dispute with Meghalaya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have agreed to form district-level committees that will be tasked with undertaking joint surveys in the disputed sectors to find tangible solutions to the long-pending issue based on historical perspective, ethnicity, contiguity, people's will and administrative convenience of both the States.

The two States have decided to form 12 such committees involving the districts sharing the boundary. Assam has eight districts touching the boundary with Arunachal Pradesh, which has 12 such districts.

THE GIST

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma have decided to form district-level committees for settling their inter-state boundary disputes.
- The issue started with a 1951 report which transferred 3,648 sq. km of the "plain" area of Balipara and Sadiya foothills to the Darrang and Lakhimpur districts of Assam. Arunachal Pradesh claims the transfer was done without consulting its tribes who had customary rights over these lands.
- The two States have decided to form 12 committees involving the districts sharing the boundary in order to come up with a solution.

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Timings
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MONDAY, APR. 25	
RISE	06:02 SET 18:33
RISE	02:13 SET 14:02
TUESDAY, APR. 26	
RISE	06:01 SET 18:34
RISE	02:58 SET 14:56
WEDNESDAY, APR. 27	
RISE	06:01 SET 18:34
RISE	03:39 SET 15:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	24
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C A dry weather is likely. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

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At 4.18 lakh, metro ridership is at the highest in two years

With more people commuting to work, daily average ridership on weekdays is 3.8L

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With more people returning to their workplaces, the patronage of Namma Metro is slowly but steadily returning to pre-pandemic levels. Daily average ridership on weekdays is around 3.8 lakh, with Mondays being busier than usual. On April 11, ridership touched 4.18 lakh. According to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) managing director Anjum Parwez, this is the first time since the pandemic that so many people used Namma Metro services.

Prior to the pandemic, in January 2020, on an average 4.16 lakh passengers had travelled by metro. • FILE PHOTO

Prior to the pandemic, in January 2020, on an average 4.16 lakh passengers had travelled by metro. The revenue generated that month was over ₹35 crore. In 2019, daily ridership had touched over ₹6 lakh.

"Patronage is gradually picking up as employees of many IT companies and other establishments have started commuting to office. On working days, on an average 3.8 lakh to 3.9 lakh people travel in the metro," said Mr. Parwez. He added that the BMRCL hopes to see patronage increase in the coming days.

When asked about responses received for daily passes introduced recently, the official said, "We are selling an average of 100 daily passes. These passes are introduced for the benefit of passengers who travel by metro trains multiple times. When compared to buying tokens, passes are a cheaper option for commuters who travel multiple times a day. We are hoping that on holidays, there will be an increased demand for these passes," the official added.

The BMRCL has a fixed daily pass rate at ₹200, which includes a refundable deposit of ₹50.

Masks mandatory

Amid fears of a fourth wave of COVID-19 and with increased patronage, the BMRCL has reiterated that passengers should follow precautionary measures. Rules on wearing masks within metro premises and on trains have not been relaxed. "We are going by the directions of the State Government on wearing masks. Passengers must enter the train after wearing masks and checking the temperature. This is being followed in all the metro stations," said a BMRCL official.

Passengers will be penalised for failing to observe the rules. In January alone, the BMRCL had collected a penalty of over ₹1 crore from passengers who broke the rules on masks.

Six stray dogs poisoned to death outside apartment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agrahara police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for poisoning as many as 10 stray dogs living outside an apartment complex at Rayasandra on Thursday night.

Based on a complaint by one of the residents of the apartment, the police registered an FIR on Saturday charging the accused under Section 448 (mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless any animal) of the Indian Penal Code. Investigations are on to trace the accused, said a police officer.

The incident occurred on Thursday night when the complainant, identified as Ranee K., heard the stray dogs howling in pain. When she went out to check, she saw them writhing on the ground with many drooling or already unconscious. She immediately alerted a veterinary clinic, but by the time help arrived, six dogs had died.

The police suspect that a local, possibly disturbed by the pack barking at night, poisoned them. "We are verifying CCTV camera footage and questioning security staff to identify the people who are behind the crime," said the police.

One killed, another injured in road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old man was killed and another injured when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a taxi. The incident took place near Peenya II Stage in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Rakesh who was riding pillion with his friend Maheshwar, 23. The duo worked in a factory in Peenya industrial area, said the police. While they were passing the sub-registrar's office, a taxi driver collided with them. On impact, Rakesh and Maheshwar fell from the bike and Rakesh came under the wheels of the taxi. He died on the spot. Maheshwar sustained multiple injuries.

The taxi driver abandoned the vehicle and escaped even before passing motorists could help. The police have taken up a case of death due to negligence against the driver and efforts are on to trace him.

Vibrant show

Snapshots: Mallakhamb performance and various cultural programmes were held at the inauguration of the second edition of Khelo India University Games at Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

READER'S MAIL

Corruption in BBMP

Sir, – The report in *The Hindu* (April 24) about the Urban Development Department pulling up the BBMP on the issue of "tender for jet cleaners being scrutinised, cleared and floated" citing various irregularities, speaks volumes about the inefficiency in the civic body.

The fact that the five chief engineers concerned have gone scot-free is shocking. In spite of many reports of mismanagement, the Commissioner, the Minister in charge, and even the Chief Minister have not shown any concern and neither suspended nor filed criminal charges against those involved. This gives an impression that every one is hand in glove.

K.N. BHAGAVAN,
Bengaluru

Unscheduled power cuts

Sir, – Unscheduled frequent power cuts and single-phase supply have become very common these days, causing huge inconvenience to consumers residing in R.R. Layout off Nagadevanahalli. Officials and staff of the local Bescom office are callous and even refuse to attend to calls seeking information about power cuts. The aged, those with health issues, and students preparing for examination are the most affected by unscheduled power cuts. I request the authorities to ensure uninterrupted and stable power supply barring exceptional situations.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

Youth killed in road rage incident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old sales executive who worked at an electronics showroom in the city was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in Kengeri Satellite Town on Saturday night after a row. According to the police, the assailants stabbed the victim, Bharath, more than 15 times.

"They then dragged the body to a railway track and dumped it there to make it look like an accidental death. However, the patrolling police saw them moving suspiciously and rushed to investigate. The assailants were forced to abandon the body to make a quick escape," said a police officer.

According to the police, Bharath lived in MTS Layout and had gone to watch the Kengeri karaga procession with his friends. Around midnight, while he was with his friends, two men on a motorcycle brushed passed him.

Bharath shouted at them and advised them to ride carefully. The duo stopped their bike and got into an argument with him. "They left but reportedly returned with 10 to 12 persons. When they saw the gang, the victim and his friends fled the spot. However, the accused chased down Bharath and attacked him with a knife near a railway track," said the police.

Senior police officers visited the crime spot and efforts are on to track down the gang.

Recent incident

This is not the first time this month when a minor altercation ended in murder. On April 5, a 19-year-old boy, Chandru V., was stabbed in his thigh during an altercation after a road accident in Goripalya area in J.J. Nagar police station limits. He succumbed to his injuries in a hospital. Though the police had initially ruled it as a road rage incident, the CID has taken over the probe. In the wake of his death, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra alleged that the teenager was murdered for failing to speak in Urdu. The Home Minister later retracted his statement.

Phone-snatcher held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Kodigehalli police arrested a 28-year-old man and recovered a mobile phone worth ₹43,000 that he had allegedly robbed from a woman at Sahakarnagar on March 31.

"The accused, Suhail Pasha, has been booked for robbery and remanded in judicial custody," said the police.

According to the police, the accused would move around residential areas on his motorcycle wearing a helmet that would cover his face completely, and target people on their morning walks.

On March 31, he confronted the victim while she was taking her morning walk and snatched her phone. Based on her complaint, the police tracked down Pasha and seized the stolen phone.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Syed** Yahiya S/O. Syed Burhanuddin R/o D/r No 858, Madina Road, Channapatna, Karnataka-562160 have changed my name to Syed Yahiya Imran for all purposes.

I, **Priyanka** D/o Ravish Chandra Prasad W/o Navin Kumar, R/o: A 217 Ravoos Nandan, Belathur Main Road, K R Puram, Avalahalli, Bengaluru-560049, changed my name to Priyanka Singh vide affidavit no: IN-DL18220382264966U Dtd: 22/04/22 Chennai Notary Y. KERISSHNAN G.O.MS.No. 590/98 Chennai.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Farha** Fathima alias Mohammed Farhaan D/o Mohammed Sadiq, R/o: No.67, Mosque Road Cross Near Casio Gift Palace Pulakeshi Nagar Fraser Town, Bengaluru- 560005, changed my name to Mohammed Farhaan for all purposes.

I, **RAMESH** Sumathi residing at No.691, 7TH Cross, 17TH Main 6TH Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560095, have changed my name to Bharati Ramesh for all purposes

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **SOLADHRA** DILIPBHAI PRAVINBHAI, have changed my name from SOLADHRA DILIPKUMAR PRAVINBHAI to SOLADHRA DILIPBHAI PRAVINBHAI for all future purposes by affidavit dated on 22/04/2022. Sworn before the Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Blore-32.

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EDUCATIONAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that **V. PRASAD** aged about 68 years S/o. Late. V.B. Venkataramana Bhatta, & **B.M. PREMA**, aged about 63 years W/o. V. Prasad both R/at No. 474, 4th Cross, 4th Main, BEML Layout, 4th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, BANGALORE 560 098 are the full & absolute owners of the site No. 137 of "**Canara Residency**" carved out of Sy. No. 111/2 of HARAPANAHALLI Village, Jigini Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, having purchased from their previous Owner M.S. Madhava Rao, under Sale Deed dated 30/09/2005 registered as Document No. ANK-1-10581/2005-07 of Book - I Stored in C.D. No. ANKD157 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal, which is more fully described in the schedule below.

It is further notified to the General Public that V. Prasad had lost the Original Sale Deed of previous owner M.S. Madhava Rao, who had acquired under sale deed dated 17/03/2005 executed by Khaleelulla Shareef, Mohammed Rafi & J. Shuma Tabrez., in favour of M.S. Madhava Rao, registered as Document No. ANK-1-2619/2004-05 of Book I Stored in C.D. No. ANKD56 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal). A Police complaint in this regard is lodged with Bangalore City Police vide Lost Report No. 02084712022 dated 20/04/2022. We, hereby request that if any persons come across or find the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule site with any persons on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against V. Prasad & B.M. Prema nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing **Site No. 137** Khatha No. 388 carved out of converted Sy. No. 111/2 converted for non-agricultural / residential purpose vide official Memorandum bearing ALN.SR(A)191/1994-95 dated 30th March 1995 situated in **"CANARA RESIDENCY" at HARAPANAHALLI VILLAGE, Jigini Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District**, measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1200 square feet & bounded on:

East by : Site No. 138; West by : Road; North by : Site No. 136 &; South by : Site No. 138:

M/s. GANJAM NAGARAJ ASSOCIATES,
Advocates
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, 6th Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.
Dated : 24/04/2022 Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION CELL
(ECHS CEL) BANGALORE , TELE NO 080-25322873
e-mail:echscellbangalore@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

ECHS invites the application to engage following staff on contractual basis in **ECHS polyclinics located at Madikeri, Shimoga, Bengaluru (MEG), Virajpet & Mangalore for a period of one year for ESM and eleven Months for civilians. Extension of service for one year on 'assessment for ESM only:-**

Ser No.	Category	Name of Polyclinic					No. of Vac	Remarks
		Madikeri	Shimoga	Bangalore (MEG)	Virajpet	Mangalore		
(a)	Medical Spl	-	-	01	-	-	01	60% of vacancy reserved for ESM
(b)	Medical Offr	-	-	01	01	-	02	
(c)	Dental Offr	01	-	01	-	01	03	70% of vacancy reserved for ESM
(d)	Lab Tech	01	-	01	-	01	03	
(e)	Lab Asst	-	-	-	-	01	01	
(f)	Pharmacist	-	01	02	-	01	04	
(g)	Nursing Asst	01	-	-	-	-	01	
(h)	Clerk	-	-	01	01	01	03	
(i)	Female Attendant	01	-	01	-	01	03	
(k)	Chowkidar	-	-	-	-	01	01	
(l)	Amb Driver	-	-	01	-	-	01	
(m)	Safaiwala	01	01	01	01	01	05	
	Total	05	02	10	03	08	28	

2. For **Terms & Conditions, Application form & Remuneration.** Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in. For additional details contact Station Cell (ECHS Cell) Bangalore **Tele No 080-25322873 & E-Mail ID: echscellbangalore@gmail.com.** Approach ECHS Polyclinic concerned for details if required. Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen. Priority will be accorded to Veer Naries/Widows of ESM within the ambit of Govt instrs.

3. **Last date for receipt of application as per format is 24 May 2022.** Applications as per requisite format along with self-attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 560001 by **24 May 2022 (14:00 h). Any application received after 24 May 2022 (14:00 h) will not be accepted.**

4. **Interview Date, Timing & Venue.** Only short listed Candidates will be called for interview at ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore. Interviews will be **held on 15 Jun & 16 Jun 2022** at Station Cell, Cubbon Road, Bangalore between **10:00 h to 15:00 h.** Candidates must bring all the original certificate / mark sheets / degree of 10th / Matric, 10+2 & Graduation / post-graduation / diploma / Course, work experience, discharge book, PPO, service records and two PP size color photograph at the time of interview. No TA / DA claim is admissible.

FORM NO. RSC – 4
(Pursuant to Rule 3(3))

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU (ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 66, READ WITH 61 AND 52 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF PRESTIGE MANGALORE RETAIL VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED

CP No. 69/BB/ 2022

Prestige Mangalore Retail Ventures Private Limited
CIN: U70109KA2007PTC044794
Reg. Office: Prestige Falcon Tower, No.19, Brunton Road, Bangalore - 560025

...PETITIONER COMPANY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Notice may be taken that CP No. 69/BB/2022 is filed on February 23, 2022 ('**Company Petition**') before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench at Bengaluru ('**Hon'ble Tribunal**'), for confirming the reduction of the issued, subscribed and paid-up capital of Prestige Mangalore Retail Ventures Private Limited ('**Company**') from Rs. 84,91,55,530/- (Rupees Eighty Four Crores Ninety One Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Only) consisting of 8,49,15,553 (Eight Crore Forty Nine Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Three Only) equity shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) each fully paid to Rs. 8,49,15,553 (Rupees Eight Crore Forty Nine Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Three Only) consisting of 8,49,15,553 (Eight Crore Forty Nine Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Three Only) equity shares of Re. 1/- (Rupee One) each fully paid up, by reducing the face value of each share from Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) each to Re. 1/- (Rupee One) each fully paid up thereby reducing the equity share capital to the extent of Rs. 76,42,39,977/- (Rupees Seventy Six Crores Forty Two Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Seven Only) and reduction of entire balance of Rs.24,50,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Crores Fifty Lakhs Only) available in the Securities Premium Account of the Petitioner Company (Collectively, 'Reduction of Share Capital') to set-off the accumulated losses (i.e., debit balance of Profit & Loss Account to the extent of Rs.1,00,92,39,977/- (Rupees One Hundred Crores Ninety Two Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Seven Only)

The Company has secured and unsecured creditors and Notice in Form RSC-3 is issued to the secured and unsecured creditors of the Company in this regard. The list of secured and unsecured prepared on February 10, 2022 by the Company is available at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection on all working days during 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. up to three months of date of publication of this notice.

If any creditor of the Company has any objection to the Company Petition or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorized Representative, if any, to the undersigned at SPJ Legal, Unit No 1002, 10th Floor, #30, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 within three months of the date of this Notice.

In case no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above Company Petition to reduce the share capital of the Company, be treated as correct.

It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for June 7, 2022 which the Hon'ble Tribunal shall hear the Company Petition. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing, he should make a request along with his objections, if any.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2022 at Bengaluru

Sd/-
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
SAJI P JOHN
SPJ Legal
Unit No 1002, 10th Floor, #30, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 Ph:09845209798
E-mail: saji@spjlegal.com

THE HINDU
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Digital stealth: A screenshot of the Fancy Bear website fancybear.net seen on a computer screen in Moscow, Russia after the World Anti-Doping Agency email leak on September 14, 2016. • AP

CACHE

Tackling Strontium: a cyber-espionage group

What are the different malware tools used by the Russian hacking group? Who are their main targets?

THE GIST

- Strontium (aka Fancy Bear) is a highly active cyber-espionage group. The group is said to be connected to the GRU, the Russian Armed Forces' main military intelligence wing. The GRU's unit 26165 is identified as Fancy Bear.
- The group deploys diverse malware and malicious tools to breach networks. These tools can be used as hooks in system drivers to access local passwords, and can track keystroke, mouse movements, and control webcam and USB drives. They can also search and replace local files and stay connected to the network.
- The Democratic National Committee (DNC) hack during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the global television network TV5Monde cyberattack, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) email leak, and several other high-profile breaches are said to be the work of Fancy Bear.

ISHAN PATRA

The story so far: On April 7, Microsoft said it had disrupted cyberattacks from a Russian nation-state hacking group. The group called 'Strontium' by the software company targeted Ukrainian firms, media organisations, government bodies, and think tanks in the U.S. and the EU. The Richmond-based company took control of seven Internet domains used by the group to launch their attacks after a court order permitted it to seize the infrastructure. In the past, Microsoft had performed 15 similar seizures to take control of over 100 Strontium-controlled domains. Apart from Microsoft, security firms, government agencies and individual researchers have been watching the attack group, which has been active for over one and a half decades deploying different attack methods to target individuals and organisations across multiple sectors globally.

What is Strontium?

Strontium, also known as Fancy Bear, Tsar Team, Pawn Storm, Sofacy, Sednit or Advanced Persistent Threat 28 (APT28) group, is a highly active and prolific cyber-espionage group. It is one of the most active APT groups and has been operating since at least the mid-2000s, making it one of the world's oldest cyber-spy groups. It has access to highly sophisticated tools to conduct spy operations, and has been attacking targets in the U.S., Europe, Central Asia and West Asia. The group is said to be connected to the GRU, the Russian Armed Forces' main military intelligence wing. The GRU's cyber units are believed to have been responsible for several cyberattacks over the years and its unit 26165 is identified as Fancy Bear.

How does it attack networks?

The group deploys diverse malware and malicious tools to breach networks. In the past, it has used X-Tunnel, SPLM (or CHOPSTICK and X-Agent), GAMEFISH and Zebrocy to attack targets. These tools can be used as hooks in system drivers to access local passwords, and can track keystroke, mouse movements, and control webcam and USB drives. They can also search and replace local files and stay connected to the network, according to a report by the U.K. National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

APT28 uses spear-phishing (targeted campaigns to gain access to an individual's account) and zero-day exploits (taking advantage of unknown computer-software vulnerabilities) to target specific individuals and organisations. It has used spear-phishing and sometimes water-holing to steal information, such as account credentials, sensitive communications and documents. A watering hole attack compromises a site that a targeted victim visits to gain access to the victim's computer and network.

For high volume attacks, the group has used Zebrocy, which is also primarily deployed through spear-phishing emails.

Fancy Bear has also used VPNFilter malware to target hundreds of thousands of routers and network-access storage devices worldwide. The infection allows attackers to potentially control infected devices, make them inoperable and intercept or block network traffic, according to NCSC. More recently, a cybersecurity advisory issued by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) noted that APT28 deployed a malware called Drovorub, designed for Linux systems. When deployed on a victim machine, it provides file download and upload capabilities; execution of arbitrary commands; and implements hiding techniques to evade detection.

Which organisations have been targeted?

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) hack during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the global television network TV5Monde cyberattack, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) email leak, and several other high-profile breaches are said to be the work of APT28.

The DNC was allegedly hacked by Fancy Bear, and documents including emails that were stolen during the cyberattacks were published online. Throughout the campaign, dozens of politicians, DNC staff, speech writers, data analysts, former staff of the Obama campaign, staff of the Hillary Clinton campaign, and even corporate sponsors were targeted multiple times, according to a report by cybersecurity software firm Trend Micro. During the same year, Fancy Bear was suspected to be behind the release of confidential medical files relating to many international athletes. WADA stated publicly that this data came from a hack of its anti-doping administration and management system.

In 2015, the German federal Parliament, Bundestag, was reportedly attacked by Fancy Bear. During the attack, a significant amount of data was stolen and the email accounts of several MPs, as well as then Chancellor Angela Merkel, were affected. Later that year, the same group was supposedly responsible for accessing and stealing content from multiple email accounts belonging to a small U.K.-based TV station.

How have governments and security agencies reacted?

In 2018, a jury indicted 12 Russian nationals in the DNC hack for committing federal crimes that were intended to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The convicts were members of GRU. Later that year, another jury indicted seven defendants, all officers in the GRU. The conspirators included a Russian intelligence hacking team that travelled abroad to compromise computer networks used by anti-doping and sporting officials.

In the U.K., the government had announced it would enforce asset freezes and travel bans against two Russian GRU officers and the GRU's unit 26165, responsible for the 2015 cyberattacks on Germany's Parliament. Besides, the country's NCSC had issued a detailed technical advisory to assist in detecting the presence of malicious tools used by APT28 on platforms and networks, along with mitigation guidelines for protection against the group's activities.

In addition to security agencies, software and cybersecurity firms as well as researchers have published detailed reports, describing Fancy Bear's notorious cyberattacks and the tools used in executing them. This is to help and prepare organisations against the persistent cyber threats from APT groups working in association with nation-states.

THE DAILY QUIZ

On the occasion of World Malaria Day observed every year on April 25, a quiz on the deadly ailment and other infectious diseases

1. What does the word malaria literally mean and which specific mosquito is primarily responsible for spreading it?
2. If a person has lockjaw, what disease is he or she suffering from?
3. According to WHO's World Malaria Report 2021, which African nation accounted for 31.9% of the global malaria deaths?
4. According to WHO, what is any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans called?
5. What is common to falciparum, vivax, ovale curtisi, ovale wallikeri, malariae and the rare knowlesi?
6. H1N1 is the common name for 'swine flu'. What do H1 and N1 stand for?
7. Name the two neighbours of India certified malaria-free by the WHO Director-General in 2016 and 2021 respectively?
8. Which celebrated surgeon's principle that bacteria must never gain entry into an operation wound remains the basis of surgery to this day?

◄ Identify this India-born English doctor. Why was he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902? • WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the April 22 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This major disaster in January 1969 acted as a catalyst for Senator Gaylord Nelson to come up with the idea of an Earth Day. **Ans: Santa Barbara oil spill**
2. In which year did Earth Day go global. **Ans: 1990**
3. The theme for Earth Day 2022. **Ans: 'Invest in Our Planet'**
4. The economic sector which emits the largest percentage of greenhouse gas emissions at a whopping 25% globally. **Ans: The electricity and heat production sector**
5. The year and location where the treaty on climate change was agreed upon, with an aim to keep the overall increase in global temperatures below 2°C. **Ans: Also called the Paris Agreement, it happened at COP-21 in 2015**
6. The reason why an average Earth day is increasing by about 1.7 milliseconds every century. **Ans: The rotation is being slowed down because of the tides that the moon helps create**
7. The names of the two landmasses that the supercontinent Pangea split into. **Ans: Gondwanaland and Laurasia**
8. The two-word term used to describe images of Earth taken by the crew of Apollo 17 in December 1972. **Ans: Blue Marble**

Early Birds: Vaibhanshi Chaudhary| Jatin Tihal| Kaveesh Sethi| Ashraf Basha Yakub

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Are we meeting tomorrow?

Was there an appointment set up or did you just meet him?

S. UPENDRAN

"I just heard that your favourite director died of a heart attack last night. You doing ok?"

"I was so shocked when I heard the news, I just couldn't sleep. The poor chap was only 30."

"True. But in that short period of time, he made some really great movies."

"Truly wonderful movies. He got married six months ago. Has no issue and ..."

"Issue? I didn't know that he had issues with people? I thought he got along with everyone"

"Issue. I mean children. Aren't children sometimes referred to as issues? I've heard many people use the term."

"Yes, quite a few people in our country refer to someone's child as his/her 'issue'. Native speakers of English, however, do not use the word in this manner. In native varieties of English, the expression 'die without issue' is limited to legal contexts. Even then, it's considered to be rather old fashioned. In all other contexts, native speakers seldom use the word 'issue' to refer to a child."

"I see. Is it okay to say, the millionaire was worried that he would die without issue?"

"I suppose it is. Did you ever meet this director you like so much?"

"Unfortunately, I never got a chance to meet him. But my friend met with him once. He bumped into him at the airport, and asked for his autograph."

"Well, in that case, your friend didn't 'meet with' him. He 'met him' at the airport."

"Is there a difference between 'meet someone' and 'meet with someone'?"

"There most certainly is. The expression 'meet with' suggests that the meeting was set up in advance. In other words, you made an appointment to talk to or discuss some matter with the individual."

"I see. I guess this explains why when foreign dignitaries come to India they always 'meet with' the Prime Minister."

"Exactly! The meeting has been set up in advance. I am meeting with my boss tomorrow to discuss a few ideas I have."

"But you can also say, 'I'm meeting my boss tomorrow', can't you? It would have the same meaning as 'I'm meeting with my boss tomorrow', won't it?"

"You're right. When you say, 'I met Rama in the library', it could have two different meanings. It could mean that the two of you had planned to meet in the library and you did."

"In other words, it was pre-arranged. Just like 'meet with'."

"That's right! But it could also suggest that the meeting was accidental. You hadn't really planned to meet Rama in the library. You ran into her there. You met her accidentally."

"I see. I've been asked to meet all the new recruits tomorrow."

"That sounds like fun. By the way, according to some books on usage, 'meet with' is considered to be much more formal than 'meet'."

"Guessed as much. What about the expression 'meet up with'? Does it..."

"It is considered to be rather informal. When you meet up with someone, you run into them."

"In other words, it's an accidental meeting."

"That's right! Rama met up with her sister in the supermarket."

"I'm sure Rama wasn't very happy about it."

"Why do you say that?"

"The two don't get along at all."

No one is perfect - that's why pencils have erasers.

-Wolfgang Riebe
upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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THE HINDU

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MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

THE ALL-NEW
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TIME TO INDULGE

SCAN THE QR CODE
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OF INDULGENT COMFORT.

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO EXPERIENCE
INDULGENCE.

CREATE. INSPIRE.

Fake number plates posing a challenge to police, motorists

In the last month, TMC received 150 plaints from motorists for violations they did not commit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Last week, Hemanth Kumar, a private firm employee and resident of Jayanagar, was pulled up by the traffic police near the metro station in his neighbourhood for not wearing a helmet while riding his motorcycle. When the police ran a check on his licence and registration number for previous violations, they found that he had around nine violations with fines totalling ₹2,200. All the violations had been recorded on enforcement cameras.

As he was late for work, Mr. Kumar paid the fines, collected the receipt and rode off. However, later in the week when he was free, he decided to check the dates of the violations. "I was shocked to find that I was nowhere in the area where the violations had been recorded. I had neither visited any of the places nor loaned my bike to a friend or a family member," he said.

Suspecting that something was amiss, he decided to follow up with the traffic police and paid a visit to the Traffic Management Centre (TMC) on Infantry Road. While waiting for help, he started talking to other people and found that there was a long queue of people with similar complaints. "My experience was not an isolated incident. They were all waiting for their turn to meet the officials concerned," he said.

According to the police, vehicles with such number plates are also being used to commit anti-social activities.

Motorists being pulled up for traffic violations they claim they did not commit are increasingly becoming more common. Senior traffic police officials at the TMC acknowledged the problem. "We received as many as 150 such complaints in the last one month alone," said a police officer, adding that it is a matter of serious concern. "Fake registration number plates are not only posing a challenge to the traffic police but are also being used to commit anti-social activities," the officer said.

Jeevan K., who hails from Andhra Pradesh but lives in Bengaluru, also claimed to have received multiple notices for violations he did not commit. "I was working in my home town in Andhra Pradesh and only recently returned to Bengaluru. How could I have committed them? My bike was also with me at the time the violation occurred in Bengaluru," he said.

At the TMC, staff were busy going through video footage records for the disputed cases. Police personnel on duty admitted that many complaints were genuine. Most of the cases are related to two-wheelers. For instance, in one case, the cameras showed a white scooter using the registration number of a motorcycle. "It appears that vehicle registration numbers have been used by some other bike owners who are then blatantly violating the traffic rules," said a police officer. The enforcement cameras record the violations, the challan is generated at the TMC and sent to the vehicle owner.

Joint Commissioner of Police B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda said action would be taken and FIRs registered when motorists are caught using another vehicle's registration number. "We are flagging such vehicles and alerts have been sent to traffic police personnel at junctions to seize them. The traffic police have also been instructed to register FIRs at the jurisdictional police stations," he said.

After the TMC verifies complaints of fake number plates and wrong challans, the fine amount is cancelled. However, the onus is on vehicle owners to visit the TMC with the challan.

Remembering an icon

Minister for Excise K. Gopalaiah, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel and Minister for Horticulture Muniratna paying tribute to Dr. Rajkumar at his samadhi in Bengaluru on his birth anniversary on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Drive to promote entrepreneurship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A mega drive to promote entrepreneurship among youth who have completed their studies, will be held in Mysuru on April 28. The objective is to encourage youngsters to launch their own firms or establishment so that they emerge as job creators rather than job seekers.

A similar exercise was held in Bengaluru, Belagavi and a few other places and the Mysuru exercise will be inaugurated by Minister for Industries Murugesh Nirani. The University of Mysore and Karnataka State Open University will be part of the drive. A release said the drive to encourage youngsters to be entrepreneurs has been successful.

The participants will be apprised of the opportunities available in various sectors and they will be guided to identify the sector suitable to their skills and talent.

Those registering will be provided additional three months of training.

Loan racket unearthed; four arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The northeast cybercrime police on Saturday unearthed a loan racket and arrested four persons who were allegedly running the ring and cheating people.

The accused have been identified as Satish, 24, Uday, 24, Jayaram, 32, and Vinay, 26. According to the police, they used to work in a call centre that provided customer care service for banks. "Around four or five months ago, they got together and came up with the loan racket scam, cheating more than 15 people," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast division) Anup A. Shetty.

They would call people at random, introduce themselves as executives working with reputed banks and offer business or personal loans. When a person expressed interest in the 'offer', they would ask for ID proof and other documents such as PAN and Aadhaar details and promised to get back to him after document verification. "This was done to gain the trust of their intended victims and make them believe that it was a genuine offer," said a senior police officer.

After a few days, the accused would call the victims back and inform them that a loan – usually amounting to several lakhs – has been sanctioned. They would request the victims to complete a few formalities such as payment for processing the loan, insurance cover, and so on. "Most people would oblige and transfer the money to the bank account given to them. The accused would then change the SIM and seek another victim," the police officer added.

Based on a complaint by one of the victims who realised he had been duped when he found the number the gang had used was no longer valid, the northeast cybercrime police took up a case. A team led by inspector Santosh Ram on Saturday tracked down the gang to a rented house from where they were operating and arrested them. The police seized four mobile phones, seven SIM cards, and froze a bank account that had ₹1.5 lakh.

COVID-19 guidelines to be issued after meeting with PM: Bommai

Chief Minister urges people to take precautions amid fears of a fourth wave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI/BENGALURU

Amid apprehensions of a fourth wave of COVID-19 with cases slowly rising across India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to hold a video conference with Chief Ministers on April 27, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Speaking to media persons in Hubballi on Sunday, the CM said, "The Union government has already issued a caution alert. A slight increase in cases has been recorded in Kerala and Maharashtra in the last eight to 10 days. Based on the experience of the last three waves, experts too have suggested suitable precautionary measures. The Health minister too has issued a few instructions. Clear instructions will be issued for COVID-19 management in the State after the video conference with the Prime Minister."

> **Based on the experience of the last three waves, experts have suggested suitable precautionary measures. The Health minister too has issued a few instructions**
>
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
> Chief Minister

He urged people to continue taking precautions. "The second wave of COVID-19 started slowly and later exploded. Scientists are studying the virus variants," Mr. Bommai added.

60 new cases in State

Meanwhile, in Karnataka on Sunday recorded 60 new COVID-19 cases, of which 57 were in Bengaluru Urban. Testing remained low with barely 8,263 samples tested, taking the total to 6,58,17,472 as per the Department of Health and Family Welfare media bulletin. The death toll was zero. The positivity rate for the day was 0.72%. The case fatality rate was zero.

Selection of an Operator for Wayside Amenity at Hansalpur

Components : *Wayside Amenity with 2 cottages and restaurant for 50 pax spread over an area of about 9,000 sq. m. and support infrastructure.*

Key Features: *Located on NH-947 connecting State Capital to Morbi and Kutch.*
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RFP Document *can be downloaded from https://www.nprocure.com/ & https://www.gujarattourism.com/,* ***25/04/2022*** *onwards.*
The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***09/05/2022, 12:30 Hrs.*** *For any further details, interested Bidders may contact* ***Mr. M. S. Joshi*** *at msjoshi@gujarattourism.com. The last date for submission of the Financial Bid (on n-procure website only) is* ***25/05/2022 upto 3:00 p.m.*** *and Technical Bid is* ***27/05/2022 upto 3:00 p.m.***

Selection of an Operator for Restaurant at Saputara

Components : ***Newly constructed*** *Restaurant with covered seating capacity for more than 125 persons and support infrastructure*

Key Features: *Located on Governor Hill (Tabletop), near terminal station of Pushpak Ropeway.*
Proximity to prominent tourist attractions of Saputara.
Newly Constructed Building at prime location

RFP Document *can be downloaded from https://www.nprocure.com/ & https://www.gujarattourism.com/,* ***25/04/2022*** *onwards.*
The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***09/05/2022, 12:00 Noon.*** *For any further details, interested Bidders may contact* ***Mr. M. S. Joshi*** *at msjoshi@gujarattourism.com. The last date for submission of the Financial Bid (on n-procure website only) is* ***23/05/2022 upto 3:00 p.m.*** *and Technical Bid is* ***25/05/2022 upto 3:00 p.m.***

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MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

THE ALL-NEW
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Don't name Shivamogga airport after me: BSY

He writes to Chief Minister suggesting that it should be named after a personality who has contributed to country or State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid a row over naming the upcoming airport in Shivamogga, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa - in an attempt to stay away from the controversy - has asked Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai not to name it after him. He has suggested to him instead to name the airport after a personality who has contributed to the history and development of the nation or the State.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the airport in Shivamogga. The proposal to name the airport after B.S. Yediyurappa by Mr. Bommai had recently kicked up a debate. • FILE PHOTO

The proposal to name the airport after Mr. Yediyurappa by Mr. Bommai recently had kicked up a debate with many netizens and several Opposition leaders slamming it. Instead, suggestions have come to name the airport from among the several prominent personalities from Shivamogga region, including the Keladi king Shivappa Naik, Jnanpith awardees Kuvempu and U.R. Ananthamurthy, first Chief Minister late Kadidal Manjappa, socialist Shanthaveri Gopala Gowda, former Chief Ministers S. Banagrappa and J.H. Patel, among others.

On Sunday, in a letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Yediyurappa said: "Recently, after reviewing the progress of the work on airport, you announced that the airport will be named after me. I am overwhelmed by your love. I am thankful to the district that has nurtured me. My contribution (to the State) is less when compared to many greats and patriots who have contributed immensely to the development of the country. In the light of this, it is not appropriate to name the the new airport after me."

Further, he suggested to Mr. Bommai to review his decision and discuss in an appropriate platform on the great personalities who have contributed for the development of the country and State before deciding on the name.

"I request you to name the new airport after a great personality."

Later, Mr. Yediyurappa also tweeted stating: "I am touched by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's decision to name the Shivamogga airport after me. With all humility, I request the Government to name the airport after any illustrious personality which will be a befitting tribute to their contribution."

It is learnt that several leaders in the BJP themselves were learnt to be a little surprised to hear the decision of the Chief Minister. Though it cannot be ruled out that the airport would not have materialised but for his political will, it was embarrassing for the party to ignore iconic personalities from Shivamogga, observed a party leader.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

A season to demand bans

It appears to be the season for demanding bans. After the ban on students wearing hijab in colleges, there was a demand for ban on loudspeakers in mosques and then a ban on establishment of shops on temple premises during annual festivals by members of minority communities. These came from activists of right-wing Hindutva groups.

In the background of Hubballi violence, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah (*in picture*) dared the State Government to ban several organisations. "Whether SDPI, AIMIM, RSS, or Bajrang Dal, go ahead and ban them. We do not have any objection," Mr. Siddaramaiah said, in response to a question about the Government contemplating banning certain organisations in the State.

Going the whole hog while countering the Congress leaders, particularly MLA and KPCC Publicity Committee head M.B. Patil for his remarks on banning RSS, Vijayapura MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal said that along with SDPI and PFI, Congress too should be banned. The ongoing rhetoric on bans is unlikely to end at least till 2023 Assembly elections.

This round for the cadre?

Legislators from the BJP cadre are likely to get more preference in the next round of Cabinet expansion or reshuffle if and when it happens. This is because at present, there are only a few Ministers in the Basavaraj Bommai-led Cabinet who hail from the cadre, such as Araga Jnanendra, V. Sunil Kumar, R. Ashok, B.C. Nagesh and C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

K.S. Eshwarappa, one of the prominent faces from the cadre, recently quit the Cabinet following allegations of 40% commission against him and death of contractor Sathosh Patil.

Occasionally, the Opposition Congress has been taunting that the BJP Government has more Ministers who formerly belonged to the Opposition parties. Nearly a dozen MLAs became Ministers in the Government after they switched sides and were re-elected again on BJP ticket. To ensure the party's core vote bank is intact, it is learnt that the party is expected to give more preference to legislators coming from the cadre. Currently, there are five vacancies in the Cabinet.

Percentage politics

Taking the infamous "rate" of corruption in Karnataka a notch higher, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy (*in picture*) said that the percentage of "commission" in implementation of schemes in Karnataka is not just 40% as alleged by the contractors' association, but was as high as 65%. "If the Government releases ₹100 only ₹35 reaches people," he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said that recently, he came to know about the extent of corruption in the Government from some MLA friends in the BJP. The JD(S) leader said the people within the BJP too were upset with it. "A couple of BJP MLAs whom I have known for many years in fact told me to avoid lunches hosted by

some Ministers. They said if you have lunch offered by such Ministers, people who died due to the COVID-19 will haunt you," he said, making an oblique reference to one particular Minister who is said to have profited hugely during the pandemic.

NAGESH PRABHU
SATHISH G.T.

Ahead of polls, BJP trying to gauge pulse of communities

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to retain power in the 2022 Assembly polls, has taken up an informal exercise of gauging the mood of different communities and subsects within castes so that it can devise appropriate poll strategies.

Said a prominent leader in the BJP State unit, "We are trying to assess the political inclination and mood of different sub groups within Lingayats, different communities within OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A similar exercise will also be carried out among another dominant community of Vokkaligas besides minorities."

This preliminary exercise is being done to help prepare a roadmap for the campaign in a 'methodical and pragmatic manner'. It will be a 'status report' of sorts based on which macro and micro-level strategies to woo specific communities would be worked. The party believes this kind of targeted approach is crucial to tilt the balance in the next Assembly elections.

According another party leaders, BJP is also looking into organisational issues related to micro management, such as forming booth-level committees and appointing page *pramukhs* (party workers in charge for a particular page of a voters' list comprising roughly 30 to 40 names).

Targeting beneficiaries

In addition to this, party leaders have already announced that they are trying to assess the number of beneficiaries of various Union and State Government schemes in each of the Assembly constituencies. After collating this data, the party wants to reach out to them in different groups that would be formed on the basis of schemes.

In fact, the party is planning to hold Assembly constituency-wise meetings of such beneficiaries under various schemes in different groups. A similar strategy of targeting *abharthi samooh* (beneficiary groups) was used in Uttar Pradesh polls by the BJP.

Expansion in May?

Speculation is rife in the BJP State unit that the much-awaited ministerial expansion may take place sometime in May first or second week. While clarity on the nature of expansion is yet to emerge, leaders are of the view that four to five ministers may be dropped. But any clarity would emerge only after party Central leadership holds a meeting in this regard in Delhi.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda recently announced that he would hold a meeting in Delhi soon on issues related to Karnataka Ministerial expansion.

In recognition

Actor Lakshmi receiving the Dr. Rajkumar Lifetime Achievement Award for 2017 from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during the State film awards function at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru on Sunday. Also seen are Chinne Gowda, Raghavendra Rajkumar, and Sa. Ra. Govindu. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shivalinge Gowda will not leave JD(S), says Revanna

'All six party MLAs in Hassan will remain together'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Former Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Revanna has said that none of the JD(S) legislators will quit the party.

All the six MLAs of the party in Hassan district will remain together, he has claimed.

Speaking to presspersons here on Sunday, Mr. Revanna said he was confident that Arsikere MLA K.M. Shivalinge Gowda would not leave the party.

"He spoke to me a day before the Janata Jaladhare rally of the party in Hassan. He told me that he would contest as the JD(S) candidate and would not leave the party. I don't know what he had spoken to the media or other people," he said.

During the party's programme on Thursday, two JD(S) MLAs Mr. Shivalinge Gowda and A.T. Ramaswamy were absent.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had criticised Mr. Shivalinge Gowda in their speeches. Later, Mr. Shivalinge Gowda told the media that he would take a decision after consulting his supporters in the constituency.

Ragi procurement

Mr. Revanna said the district administration would open ragi procurement centres on Monday and the farmers should make better use of the opportunity. "Because of our protests in the Assembly and Mr. Deve Gowda's efforts in Delhi, the Centre has decided to procure 1.14 lakh tonnes of ragi," he said.

We have taken Hubballi incident very seriously: CM

'Will expose individuals and organisations behind it'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

"The State Government has not taken the Hubballi incident lightly. It is a case of conspiracy and organised attack on the police station. We have taken it very seriously," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said here on Sunday.

He told journalists at the Hubballi airport that the Government would deal with the issue seriously. "The investigation will look into all angles, including the suspicion that some external forces were behind the violence," he said. "We will get to the bottom of this. In a few days, a clear picture will emerge and we will expose the individuals and organisations behind this," he said. The city police have arrested some persons in the case and recorded their statements.

To a query, he said that the State police will look into threatening emails sent to some schools, allegedly from Pakistan.

"Nowadays, some miscreants sitting in India keep sending such emails as if they had originated from foreign countries. I have asked officials to trace the originators of such communication and send them to jail," he said.

In this, the State police will work with Central agencies, the Chief Minister said.

"Karnataka will follow the due process of law in all cases. This is the Karnataka model. We will follow it in Hubballi case, as it was followed in the D.J. Halli case," Mr. Bommai said.

"We will not leave the offenders unpunished in the PSI recruitment scam. It seems there are new methods of committing irregularities using audio and video tools. But we will apprehend the offenders. Whoever the offenders are and however powerful they might be, they will be brought to justice. Steps are being taken to arrest the accused Vidya Hagaragi. Her properties have been seized. She will be arrested soon. We have instructed CID officials to conduct the probe into an impartial manner," he said.

Wild elephant enters coop. society

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

A wild elephant entered the premises of a cooperative society at Anughatta in Belur taluk of Hassan district in Karnataka on April 21 night and consumed rice kept in bags in the godown.

As many as five bags of rice, belonging to the Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank, were missing. The elephant entered the premises of the Primary Cooperative Agriculture Credit Cooperative Society at Anughatta around 12.30 a.m. CCTV camera footage shows an elephant taking away bags of rice using its trunk.

H.P. Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Hassan District Central Cooperative Bank, informed mediapersons that bank officials brought the issue to the notice of the Forest Department of Karnataka. Officials visited the society and promised compensation.

Around 60 elephants have been roaming around in Belur, Alur and Sakleshpur taluks of Hassan district.

Recently, two people died in an elephant attack near Arehalli in Belur taluk.

CID issues notice to Priyank Kharge to appear before it

Cong. leader had claimed to have evidence in alleged scam

RECRUITMENT SCANDAL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/KALABURAGI

The CID, which is investigating the alleged scam in recruitment of 545 police inspectors (civil) in the State, has issued notice to Congress leader and former Minister Priyank Kharge to appear and provide evidence in the alleged scam that he claimed to have.

The CID is conducting investigation based on an FIR filed in Chowk Police Station in Kalaburagi in respect to the alleged scam. The notice said that Mr. Kharge in a press conference held on Saturday had claimed before the mediapersons that he had evidence in the alleged scam in the recruitment process held on October 3, 2021. "This case is sensitive and serious in nature and there is a need to investigate based on all the available evidence," it said, asking the Congress leader to appear with all the evidence before the CID on Monday at 11.30 a.m.

On Saturday, Mr. Kharge released an audio clip containing a purported telephonic conversation between a candidate and a middleman who is suspected to have struck a deal with the appointing authorities. In the clip, the candidate has expressed anxiety over the possibility of the scam being exposed.

Rudragowda Patil being brought to Kalaburagi. • ARUN KULKARNI

In police custody

Meanwhile, Rudragowda Patil, prime accused in the police sub inspectors' recruitment exam scam, was arrested on Saturday and remanded in police custody for 13 days.

He was arrested near Pune in Maharashtra and was brought to Kalaburagi in the wee hours of Sunday. The accused was produced at the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, where the court granted 13 days of police custody and he was then handed over to the CID.

The CID officials traced the location of the mobile phone and arrested Patil and his associate involved in the scam, Mallikarjun S. Bidnur.

The officials conducted raids on the residences of Patil and his younger brother, Mahantesh Patil, at Akkamahadevi Colony in Kalaburagi and recovered around 15 OMR sheets and hall tickets belonging to candidates.

Patil is a native of Gour village and a former president of the Gour Gram Panchayat in Afzalpur taluk. His close aide Bidnur is a former member of the Bidnur Taluk Panchayat. During his tenure as gram panchayat president, Patil was allegedly involved in irregularities in implementation of works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

On Sunday, a video clip went viral on social media in which a person is found passing answer keys to students using vests with SIM card units and Bluetooth-enabled earpieces. As per the conversation, the answer keys were related to the question paper of the Public Works Department (PWD) junior engineer recruitment examination held in December 2021. The CID officials have widened the ambit of their investigation.

Bommai's meeting with Bellad sparks off speculation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai spent some time at the residence of Aravind Bellad, BJP MLA, in Hubballi on Sunday. This has led to speculation about the possible entry of Mr. Bellad into the Cabinet.

The CM's cavalcade turned to Mr. Bellad's home after participating in an event at a college in the morning. Officials said that the two leaders had breakfast during the meeting that lasted for over half an hour.

Mr. Bellad, the young leader and MLA from Hubballi-Dharwad West, has been in the news for some time, regarding his entry into the Cabinet.

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ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ನಾತಕ ಪದವಿಗಳಿಗೆ **KCET** ಮತ್ತು **ICAR** ಕೋಟಾದಡಿ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗದೇ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಸೀಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30-04-2022 ರಂದು ಮುಕ್ತ ಕೌನ್ಸೆಲಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷ 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪ್ರಥಮ ವರ್ಷದ ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ನಾತಕ ಪದವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೀದರನ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ KCET ಮತ್ತು ICAR ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗದೆ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗವಾರು ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30-04-2022** ರಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನಂದಿನಗರ ಅಂಚೆ ಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 6 ಬೀದರನಲ್ಲಿ KCET ಮತ್ತು AIEEA-UG – 2021 ರ್‍ಯಾಂಕಿಂಗ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಕೌನ್ಸೆಲಿಂಗ್ [illegible] ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ಕೌನ್ಸೆಲಿಂಗ್‌ಗೆ KCET-2021 [B.V.Sc & A.H, B.Tech(D.Tech) ಮತ್ತು B.F.SC ಸ್ನಾತಕ ಪದವಿಗಳಿಗೆ] ಅನುಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ AIEEA-UG-2021 ICAR [B.Tech (D.Tech) ಮತ್ತು B.F.SC ಸ್ನಾತಕ ಪದವಿಗಳಿಗೆ] ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಬರೆದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಈ ಮುಕ್ತ ಕೌನ್ಸೆಲಿಂಗ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಬಯಸುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29-04-2022** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10:00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನಂದಿನಗರ ಬೀದರನಲ್ಲಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಬಂದು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kvafsu.edu.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ,
ಸಹಿ/-
(ಬಿ.ವಿ.ಶಿವಪ್ರಕಾಶ್)
ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

IN BRIEF

Veteran Congress leader Sankaranarayanan dead

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Veteran Congress leader K. Sankaranarayanan died at his residence in Palakkad on Sunday. He was 89. In his time, Sankaranarayanan was a powerful force in Congress. He was perhaps the longest-serving United Democratic Front convener, a testimony to his shrewd political instincts and a fine-tuned sense of the eddies of coalition politics. He also served as a Cabinet Minister in the K. Karunakaran and A.K. Antony governments. He had served as Governor in Maharashtra, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Saeed Mirza to head Kerala Film Award jury

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Screenwriter and filmmaker Saeed Akhtar Mirza, one of the faces of Indian parallel cinema from the 1970s onwards, will head the jury to decide the Kerala State Film Awards for 2021. These will be the second film awards after amending the rules to introduce a two-level mechanism for the jury in the wake of an increase in entries. A total of 142 films have been submitted this year, out of which seven are children's films. The jury screenings will begin on April 28.

AAP plans to spread roots in Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA

A strong presence of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is needed in Andhra Pradesh to "sweep the rampant corruption out of the State," said its State incharge Mani Naidu. Addressing a State meeting of the party in Vijayawada, following a rally that witnessed the supporters raising slogans in support of AAP president Arvind Kejriwal, Mr. Naidu said a corruption-free and clean administration in Delhi had raised the hopes of the citizens all along the country.

TRS will engage with I-PAC for Telangana election, says KTR

'Working with it is not working with Prashant Kishor'

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) has officially engaged the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) as a partner for its poll preparations for the elections next year, Telangana Municipal Administration Minister K.T. Rama Rao revealed here.

K.T. Rama Rao

Digital expertise

The focus apparently would be on using the I-PAC's expertise in the digital space to reach out to the new generation that is not fully aware of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's heroic fight for the separate State and his achievements as an administrator, he said.

"Youngsters who would soon acquire voting rights were chilldren when the separate state struggle reached its peak. So the effort is to reach out and explain the achievements of KCR and the TRS as a whole," he said.

Mr. Rama Rao, who is also the working president of the TRS, however, argued that the party was engaged with the I-PAC but not its promoter Prashant Kishor as he had already disassociated himself with I-PAC and the relationship was with the organisation than the individual.

"We had earlier had talks with Sunil Kanugolu and a few others as well. So engaging such strategists is not really new," he said while arguing that Chief Minister continues to remain the biggest political strategist for the TRS. However, the I-PAC would assist and not drive the party activities. "I strongly believe that political strategists or such organisations can only augment and complement the party strategies and it was the political leaders who have to fight on the field," he said.

To a question that the track record of Mr. Kishor was creating divisive narratives for success and whether Telangana would see similar strategies in the coming days, he said he and the TRS always opposed divisive atmosphere.

KCR meets Prashant

Election strategist Prashant Kishor held a marathon meeting with Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Mr. Kishor arrived on Saturday morning to Mr. Rao's camp office.

Sources said Mr. Kishor and Mr. Rao agreed it was left to the former if he wanted to join the Congress to play a role in dislodging the BJP at the national-level but the TRS will continue to work with I-PAC in extending services of surveys on public opinion about development and welfare programmes of the State government and impressing first time voters. The I-PAC was already said to have carried out surveys on the position of TRS and government in all constituencies and submitted reports to Mr. Rao.

RSS worker's murder: two more held

STAFF REPORTER
PALAKKAD

A police team investigating the murder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker A. Sreenivasan on Sunday arrested two persons who were involved in the attack.

The arrested were identified as Abdul Rahman, alias Ikbal, from Mundur and Fayas from Noorani. Both were picked up from Palakkad and both of them were Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) workers.

The police said Ikbal was one of the six men who executed the murder and Fayas was one of the conspirators. So far, nine persons were arrested in connection with the murder.

Sreenivasan was murdered at his shop at Melamuri at 1 p.m. on April 16 by a six-member gang who came on three motorbikes.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty winds at isolated places likely over Arunachal Pradesh and with lightning at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets likely over Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Gujarat

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.5	26.8	Kozhikode	–	36.5	25.5
Ahmedabad	–	43.3	26.1	Kurnool	–	40.6	28.6
Aizawl	–	31.8	19.0	Lucknow	–	41.0	24.6
Allahabad	–	42.7	24.8	Madurai	–	37.5	24.9
Bengaluru	–	34.0	23.3	Mangaluru	–	33.7	26.4
Bhopal	–	41.2	24.5	Mumbai	–	34.0	27.4
Bhubaneswar	–	43.3	26.8	Mysuru	–	34.0	22.4
Chandigarh	–	37.6	20.0	New Delhi	–	40.6	20.6
Chennai	–	34.2	27.5	Patna	–	42.0	23.0
Coimbatore	4.0	35.0	22.1	Port Blair	–	33.6	26.3
Dehradun	–	35.3	17.6	Puducherry	–	35.0	26.8
Gangtok	–	23.0	15.2	Pune	–	36.9	25.7
Goa	41.0	32.7	20.9	Raipur	–	40.7	27.2
Guwahati	0.3	35.4	22.4	Ranchi	–	39.6	24.2
Hubballi	–	36.0	24.0	Shillong	–	27.4	16.9
Hyderabad	–	39.2	26.8	Shimla	–	24.6	14.5
Imphal	–	30.5	20.3	Srinagar	–	23.1	7.6
Jaipur	–	40.9	25.8	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	33.6	24.2
Kochi	25.0	33.0	23.4	Tiruchi	–	38.3	24.5
Kohima	–	26.2	–	Vijayawada	–	39.0	27.2
Kolkata	–	39.6	28.3	Visakhapatnam	–	40.0	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	–	.54	136	118	
Bengaluru	–	76	–	61	105	
Chennai	14	5	82	22	36	
Delhi	48	47	36	289	395	
Hyderabad	22	41	–	65	107	
Kolkata	34	16	29	158	131	
Lucknow	23	63	47	328	208	
Mumbai	–	29	–	127	206	
Pune	106	70	114	151	96	
Visakhapatnam	28	43	34	29	82	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Buxar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 383 indicating a very poor level of pollution. In contrast, Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 19.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Puducherry will be made a model Union Territory, says Amit Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY

Promising all necessary assistance for the development of Puducherry, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre will help the Union Territory become the country's BEST (Business, Education, Spiritual and Tourism) hub.

"As promised by the Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] during his election campaign, the Centre will make this Union Territory the BEST under the leadership of N. Rangasamy and A. Namassivayam. Puducherry will be made a model Union Territory. We will provide all assistance for its development," he said, after inaugurating tourism projects and laying the foundation for civic projects under the Smart Cities Mission.

The Union Territory had benefited immensely from the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme. Around six lakh people were getting cash benefits under it, he said. He inaugurated Franco Tamil Village, constructed at a cost of ₹6.07 crore, and a warehouse renovated at a cost of ₹17. 64 crore.

He also laid the foundation for the redevelopment of the bus stand on Marimalai Adigal Salai; the construction of an inter-State bus terminus on East Coast Road and 216 tenements at Kumaragurupallam; the beautification of Grand Canal; improvements to the Botanical Garden; and the laying of a bypass road from Natesan Nagar to Arumparthapuram.

The Home Minister handed over appointment orders to newly recruited constables. After the government programme, he visited the BJP office and held a closed-door meeting with the officer-bearers and the legislators.

Earlier in the day, he was received at the airport by Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, Speaker R. Selvam, Home Minister A. Namassivayam, BJP president V. Saminathan and party in-charge for the Union Territory Nirmal Kumar Surana.

He left for Chennai by 5.15 p.m. in a helicopter.

Webinar on vaccination to be held today

It is part of World Immunisation Week

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

GSK Pharma and *The Hindu* will conduct a webinar on April 25 from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. as part of the World Immunisation Week (24 -30 April 2022).

The webinar's topic is "11 key vaccines beyond your child's 1st birthday (vaccination card: your child's health passport)".

The webinar will have discussions on the contribution of vaccination to humanity, importance of timely vaccination and other such issues.

Among the panelists will be Preethi Sharma, Rainbow Hospital, Kondapur; and Somshekhar A.R., paediatrician, Ramaiah Hospital, Bengaluru. The session will be moderated by freelance writer Pankaja Srinivasan.

To register for the webinar, please visit: bit.ly/GSKTH25 or scan the QR Code.

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Enter 'Schoolome' learning

A learning approach that involves the physical and the digital is the way forward for education, says Venguswamy Ramaswamy, Global Head, TCS iON

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

■ MADHUVANTI S KRISHNAN

American author Dave Pelzer said, "Something good comes out of every crisis." And never have these words rung truer than during the COVID-19 pandemic. While everything came to a standstill, the flip side to the crisis was disruption: of business, education, and even of thought processes. From this emerged innumerable solutions to problems that once seemed insurmountable. Education has now moved from physical classes to online and phygital (blended learning), as the world emerges into a new order.

Naturally, with innumerable new players in an equally new sphere, there are several factors to consider, options to weigh, decisions to take, and regulations to bring in. Venguswamy Ramaswamy, Global Head, TCS iON, talks about phygital education, its potential, and more.

Ramaswamy points out that the term 'phygital' was in use even before the pandemic. In 2013, an Australian marketing agency called itself an 'agency of the phygital world'. However, it is not clear who coined the term first. "When e-commerce spread its reach, the in-store experience brought the physical and digital world together to enhance the customer experience," he explains. "Today, clearly, phygital learning is the way forward, where digital capability seamlessly integrates with physical assets."

The key is to facilitate access to physical devices and centres to learn something that can't be learned online

Shaping learning

"The current set up of a traditional classroom, video-recorded sessions, long PDF-based content does not excite digital natives. They have a short attention span and, hence, the demand for microlearning," he explains. "With the pandemic's advent, learning through devices has become accepted. However, teachers are not trained to handle such students." According to him, a phygital approach that combines physical (in school) and digital (anywhere outside the campus) will be effective. "In a classroom, teachers focus on shaping 21st century skills. At home, learning stimulates students' inquisitive minds." He calls this "Schoolome learning".

The question is how? Ramaswamy believes that a blended pedagogy provides students with the tools to simulate the real-time scenario and enhances learning by encouraging them to explore, access open-learning resources and other domains independently. "The key," he says, "is to facilitate access to physical devices and centres to take hands-on training or learn something that can't be learned online. It is also vital to empower teachers to reach out with innovative ways to impart lessons to students through AR and VR."

He agrees that there are challenges. Like equitable access to technology for all students. "Access will vary as per students' socio-economic background. The design of physical learning components may need to factor in this. Leveraging AR/VR could be one solution. Any self-led learning requires a high level of self-discipline and time-management from students, without losing interest or confidence, especially for a long-term courses."

Regulation required

Given the growth of ed-tech, he believes that there must be some regulation. Government-imposed and self regulations will impact stakeholders directly or indirectly. "For instance, in the case of ed-tech firms, government-regulated laws will add to their cost in terms of resources, legal aid, setting up consumer grievance redressal cell, and users' data management; firms will need to restrict market and sales tactics, particularly those which lure parents into making payment in return for services/products with less or no value," he points out. "For academic institutions, regulations will help in how they can partner with ed-tech firms. Government regulations will certainly benefit consumers and ensure they do not fall for advertising gimmicks and enroll in unrecognised courses."

Today, around 88% of students globally think online learning will be part of the future education experience.

Nonetheless, the continuation of phygital learning will largely depend on the teaching method/resources and students' access to devices. In the higher education space, UGC has recommended blended learning, Ramaswamy says. "In the Indian school education system, where over three crore children don't have access to digital devices, low-tech blended learning adoption could happen through empowering educators with digital tools, using mass media like radio and TV to run educational programmes."

He believes that, while phygital learning adoption in India is still in a nascent stage, it will help us to scale up learning, address the challenges of inclusivity, and bridge the gap of the digital divide, and bring remote areas of India to the cusp of digital learning.

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ **Google Ph.D. Fellowship India Programme**

An initiative from Google to support promising candidates who seek to influence the future of technology.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to those enrolled in Ph.D. programmes at an Indian University with an undergraduate/Master's degree also from an Indian University. Candidates must be professionals employed with a registered organisation in India.

REWARDS: Up to $50K and other benefits

DEADLINE: May 18

APPLICATION: Online

b4s.in/edge/OGL7

■ **Lady Meherbai D. Tata Education Scholarship**

An initiative from Tata Education Trust for Indian women graduates who wish to pursue higher education abroad in the specified fields.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Indian women graduates from a reputed university who have a consistent and remarkable academic record. Applicants must have applied for admission or preferably secured admission to reputed universities or institutions in the U.S., the U.K. or Europe for the year 2022-2023 and have relevant work experience of at least 2 years.

REWARDS: Variable awards

DEADLINE: May 02

APPLICATION: Email b4s.in/edge/TET7

■ **ICCR Scholarship for Indian Culture**

An initiative from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to candidates between 18 and 30 years who are pursuing the study of Indian Culture such as dance, music, theatre, performing art, sculpture, Indian languages, Indian cuisine.

REWARDS: Variable awards

DEADLINE: April 30

APPLICATION: Online

b4s.in/edge/ICS7

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WARANGAL-506 004
(An Institution of National Importance)

Announcement For PDF Positions / Admission into Ph.D. (Regular/Self-Finance) July'2022 Session) /M. Tech (Self-Finance) / PG Diploma (Self-Finance) Programs: 2022-23

Applications are invited from the highly motivated candidates for the Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDF) positions/ for the admission into Ph.D (Regular/Self-finance) for July' 2022 Session) / M. Tech (Self-finance)/ PG Diploma (Self-finance) Programs at NIT Warangal.

1. **PDF positions:** In all disciplines of Engineering and Sciences. Selection through Interview. Research Fellowships will be offered as per Government of India norms.
2. **Ph.D (Regular/Self-finance):** Admission through Written Test/Interview in all disciplines of Engineering, Sciences, English and Management. Hard copy of the Application is to be submitted. No online submission.
   a. **Full Time Ph.D.:** Research Fellowships will be offered as per Government of India norms.
   b. **Full Time PhD (Self-finance):** Candidates having PG Degree in respective programs are eligible to apply. No Research Fellowship will be offered.
   c. **Part Time Ph.D:** Candidates working in National Laboratories, R&D and other organizations, Academic Institutions etc. are eligible to apply. No Research Fellowship will be offered.
3. **M.Tech (Self-finance):** Admissions through Written Test/Interview in all disciplines of Engineering. No Fellowship will be offered.
4. **PG Diploma (Self-finance):** Admission through Written Test/Interview in Engineering / Sciences / English / Management. No Fellowship will be offered.

Details of the programs, eligibility criteria, admission schedule and procedure to submit the application form online are available tentatively from 25th April 2022 at www.admissions.nitw.ac.in

M BG-BCE

Side-stepping irritants

India and the U.K. chose to keep the big picture in mind and work on long-term goals

After two last-minute cancellations due to waves of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2021, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in Delhi last week, committing to more cooperation with India on trade, defence, combating climate change and cyber security. But it was a visit surprisingly short on actual agreements. While an early harvest agreement on trade had to be shelved – the plan was to announce it by Easter (April) this year – Mr. Johnson and Prime Minister Narendra Modi said they have pushed a deadline to complete the full FTA by October-end or Deepavali, with a view to doubling bilateral trade by 2030. It is not clear whether the respective trade delegations are on track for the final agreement, but Mr. Johnson sounded optimistic, with India fast-tracking its FTAs with the UAE and Australia. Of concern to the U.K. is the lifting of Indian tariffs on Scotch whisky, which might make some headway, as India has accepted lower tariffs on Australian wine and the U.K. seems more flexible in increasing visas to Indian professionals. Both Prime Ministers discussed strengthening defence ties and cooperating strategically in the Indo-Pacific. The two leaders also discussed green technology transfers and international climate finance, although India has yet to commit in writing to the Nationally Determined Contributions that Mr. Modi had described at COP26 in Glasgow.

Mr. Johnson did tread lightly on issues that the Modi government is sensitive about, such as Ukraine and human rights violations. He referred to India's long-standing relationship with Russia, expressing understanding of India's position, in stark contrast to the visit of his Foreign Minister two weeks ago. He brushed aside a question on human rights concerns in India, despite facing criticism over posing with a bulldozer while inaugurating a factory on the same day the Supreme Court of India was deliberating over the Government's controversial new policy of using bulldozers to demolish shops and homes. A sub-group is to be set up to study "extremism" inside India and the U.K., which Mr. Johnson suggested would be used to monitor Khalistani groups (as New Delhi desires), but has a broader mandate to counter all groups and individuals "seeking to incite violent extremism and terrorism". In return, New Delhi chose not to press the point too hard on why economic fugitives (Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi) have still not been extradited. However, while side-stepping irritants in the relationship can increase the prospects for agreements, it cannot replace the actual work and elbow-grease needed to give ties some momentum after years of stasis. Both New Delhi and London must ensure more concerted efforts to bring those agreements to a finale in the near future, to reach their ambitious goals under "Roadmap 2030" agreed to at the last summit in 2021.

Addressing discontent

The projects for J&K will benefit the UT but they are not enough to reverse discontent

In addressing the residents of Jammu for the first time since the removal of special status for Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a rosy picture of increased connectivity of the Union Territory with the nation's capital, promised more investments, and hailed the boom in tourism as a harbinger of progress. The UT, conflict-ridden for decades, had fared better on several development indicators compared to the rest of India, except in per capita net State GDP. Data from FY2017 showed that J&K ranked 21st among States then. The investment proposals and development projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister, in particular the connectivity projects between Jammu and Srinagar and Jammu and Delhi should help shore up the UT's economy. After a period of harsh lockdowns and communication restrictions, the UT went through a tough period, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021. But significantly, the Kashmir Valley has seen a substantial increase in footfalls with a revival of the tourism industry during the recent winter despite security concerns, with its natural beauty proving a magnetic attraction for international travellers in particular, who had been affected by global travel bans. This has come as a balm to the residents of the Valley, with political forces cutting across mainstream and separatist sections calling for unhindered access for tourists in the region.

Does this mean that there is an unequivocal acceptance of the status imposed on the erstwhile unified State of J&K (that included the present day UT of Ladakh), among the people in the Valley and beyond? That certainly does not seem to be the case in the Kashmir Valley, at least if recent events such as the district development council elections in late 2020 are any indication. The Gupkar Alliance, which has steadfastly demanded a return to status quo prior to 2019, had decisively won in the Valley and the group has also vociferously protested the delimitation exercise whose proposals clearly seek to repurpose the politics of J&K through arbitrarily providing greater electoral prospects for Jammu-based parties over Kashmir-based ones. Notwithstanding the recent uptick in economic activity after the prolonged turmoil post-August 2019, there is no indication that the resultant discontent has diminished; security risks continue to remain preponderant as the spurt of terrorist violence shows including the killing of two "fidayeen" militants barely 14 km from Palli village, where the Prime Minister made his address on National Panchayati Raj Day. Beyond doubt, New Delhi must engage in substantive outreach in the form of gestures that reverse the hostility towards the political representatives in the Valley. The return of J&K to statehood will be a good beginning.

A 'drop the pin' event in Chinese politics

There could be headwinds as the CPC prepares for its 20th Congress in autumn and tracks the 'China Dream'

SHYAM SARAN

When the Communist Party of China (CPC) held its annual Central Economic Work Conference in December last year, the watchword was "stability". This was reiterated with even greater emphasis at the March 2022 sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Path to a review

Later in autumn this year, the CPC will convene its 20th national Party Congress which will see a major turnover in leadership positions. There will be a review of the trajectory towards the realisation of the "China Dream" – the rejuvenation of China, its emergence as a fully developed modern and powerful nation and occupying the very centre of a transformed international order. The target year is 2049, marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic and, therefore, of considerable symbolic significance.

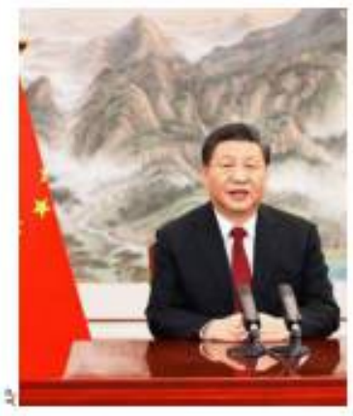
It is also anticipated that President Xi Jinping will retain his party, state and military leadership positions beyond the 10-year tenure informally observed for party leadership positions, in line with the reforms instituted by Deng Xiaoping. This was in the wake of the immense damage to the party and the country unleashed by the then Party Chairman Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). The Constitution of China was amended to allow only two five-year tenures to the head of state The objective was to restore the principle of collective leadership and ensure predictable leadership transitions and prevent a cult of personality developing around an ambitious individual leader. The Constitution has now been amended again to permit the President to serve beyond a 10-year term and, in theory, indefinitely for life. The Party has no fixed term of office for the Party General Secretary; only an informal norm is in place. In staying on in this position, Xi Jinping will not be violating any party statute.

On Xi Jinping's tenure

The 20th Party Congress is important because it is expected to endorse the continuance of Mr. Xi as China's top leader. The question is whether he will only get another five-year term or be assured his leadership position for life. The latter will signify that his power is unassailable for the present. A limited extension would indicate that there is opposition in the CPC to his assumption of leadership for life. For other leadership positions, the informal age limit of 68 years has been generally observed even during Mr. Xi's tenure.

The current Premier, Li Keqiang, recently announced at a press conference that he would leave office later this year having completed his 10-year tenure. If the informal age limits are observed, then as many as 11 of the 25 members of the Politburo and two of the seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee would have to retire at the 20th Party Congress. The appointments to these top positions, including the naming of a new Premier, will give the world an indication of both Xi Jinping's political influence as well as the orientation of China's domestic and external policies over the next phase of China's journey towards the realisation of the "China Dream".

Stability implies a predictable and carefully choreographed outcome to the Party Congress. There should neither be "black swans" nor "grey rhinos" – both signifying unexpected crises – to upset the apple cart. By now, it is clear that no such smooth passage to a celebratory 20th Congress will be possible. In his Work Report to the NPC, Premier Li Keqiang acknowledged: "A comprehensive analysis of evolving dynamics at home and



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abroad indicates that this year[,] the risks and challenges for development rise significantly and we must keep pushing to overcome them."

A buffeted economy

Domestic risks have multiplied as the economy continues to slow down and is being buffeted by severe lockdowns in major cities, disrupting ordinary lives, dislocating production schedules, causing supply chain interruptions and leading to widespread public anger and protests. The case of Shanghai, China's premier industrial and commercial hub and the world's largest container terminal, is of particular concern. The images of ordinary citizens battling public health workers, people begging for food and medical help and generally expressing anger at a government immune to their suffering do not bode well for social stability.

And yet, Mr. Xi has publicly defended the very stringent lockdowns. There is a barely concealed controversy within the party leadership over whether such severe measures are necessary. The current Party Secretary of Shanghai, Li Qiang, is reputed to be close to Mr. Xi, but may be in the doghouse for having failed to check the spread of the infection in the city. He was rumoured to be in line to be appointed Premier later in the year. This may have become a casualty of COVID-19.

The Chinese economy was on a slower trajectory even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the pervasive disruptions that it spawned not only in China but across the world. The "decoupling" of China's economy from the United States, at least in the high-tech and sensitive sectors, has been a challenge. But Mr. Xi himself attempted to reorient China's economic direction by several key decisions.

One, he tried to bring to heel China's hugely successful and profitable (and politically influential) privately held commercial multinationals such as Alibaba, WeChat and DiDi Chuxing, all in the tech platform category, by introducing several new and strict regulations, especially in the area of data security. Their foreign operations have been brought under close scrutiny and regulation. As a result, nearly U.S.$1.7 trillion of their market capitalisation has been wiped out, which would have been treated as an economic disaster in any other major economy.

Two, he has hit China's large and expanding property market with similar strict regulatory measures resulting in the near bankruptcy of some of the largest property firms in the country, including Evergrande, which has a huge exposure of U.S.$300 billion. The property sector constitutes around 30% of China's GDP. Chinese banks have made 30% of their loans to housing construction and 60% of all bank loans are backed by property as collateral. In urban areas, 60% of employment is construction related. Therefore, the cascading effect of a property meltdown throughout the economy can only be imagined.

There is another serious vulnerability related to local government financing vehicles (LGFV) which are floated by local governments and municipalities to finance infrastructure and real estate development. The outstandings on this score have gone from U.S.$2.3 trillion in 2013 to $8 trillion at the end of 2020. They are probably even larger today. This is nearly 50% of China's GDP and constitutes an economic vulnerability which is not very visible.

The Ukraine war

The big uncertainty for China is the fallout from Russia's Ukraine war. Whatever be the eventual outcome, Russia has lost the war even if it continues to win several more battles. One cannot see how reducing Ukraine to virtual rubble can constitute a victory in any practical sense. More importantly, whatever the outcome, Russia will continue to be unplugged from the global trade and financial system still dominated by the West. Western sanctions on Russia will continue and may become even more stringent than they already are.

China has condemned sanctions in general but is compelled to observe those whose violation will expose its own firms to secondary sanctions. There are limits to China's "no-limits" cooperation with Russia. On balance, the Russian misadventure in Ukraine has exposed China to greater vulnerability in its external relations. The strengthening of the U.S.-led western alliance, the revival of European unity and the renewed narrative of "democracy vs autocracy" implies that Chinese expectations of a steady march towards the "China Dream" may be belied. Certainly, the prospect of Taiwan returning to the Chinese fold, which is an indispensable component of the "China Dream", may have receded for the time being.

Xi Jinping's position may have weakened but it is unlikely that he will face a serious leadership challenge at the Congress. In an earlier commentary made soon after the release of the landmark Sino-Russian Joint Statement of February 4, 2022, I had said that China had done a Russia on the U.S. just as, in 1972, with U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to China, the U.S. had done a China on Russia. This latter day gambit appears to have failed. To that extent, India has some breathing space to rework its foreign policy calculations.

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Settling India's COVID-19 mortality data

WHO's coronavirus mortality count is more than a subject of disagreement — it poses questions to the establishment

CHAPAL MEHRA

Over the last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been busy, in an unprecedented effort, to calculate the global death toll from COVID-19. This effort, however, has India's health establishment up in arms. Globally from an estimated six million reported deaths, WHO now estimates these deaths to be closer to almost triple the number. India, deeply affected by successive COVID-19 waves, is not delighted with this revision.

There are gaps

Several news reports have pointed at a significant gap in India's COVID-19 story – significantly under-reported mortality figures. The unreleased WHO estimates have been prepared by leading global experts but have left India's health establishment perturbed, with its strong objections to these estimates.

Why? Because as in these figures, India would have had close to four times the COVID-19 deaths reported-a figure that varies highly from India's previously self-reported figures. This would make India's tally of COVID-19 deaths amongst the highest globally.

Not surprisingly, India is in serious disagreement with the WHO-prepared COVID-19 mortality estimates. In fact, its continued objections have been holding back the Global WHO Report. The argument being made by India's health establishment through a public clarification is that this is an overestimation, and the methodology employed is incorrect.

The new estimates also take into account formerly uncounted deaths, but also deaths resulting from the impact of COVID-19. For example, millions who could not access care, i.e., diagnosis or treatment due to COVID-19 restrictions or from COVID-19 cases overwhelming health services.

The methodology for this estimation, led by global experts, is unlikely to be faulty. India's disagreements with the methodology can be easily addressed through consultation. Also, the need to plump up India's COVID-19 deaths unnecessarily would serve little or no purpose.

Why then this objection? A quick study of India's COVID-19 response is insightful. India's COVID-19 response has been replete with delays and denials. For instance, for the longest time that India's COVID-19 number rose, the health establishment continued to insist that community transmission was not under way. It took

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months and several lakh cases before they agreed that COVID-19 was finally in community transmission.

Second wave's devastation

The end of the first wave saw a slew of congratulatory and adulatory messages by the political leadership applauding India's leadership in ending COVID-19 in the country. India's people were told that the war against COVID-19 had been won and over. Until the deadly second wave arrived and crept up on the country which had turned complacent.

The devastation of the second wave showed how unprepared we were to combat the deadly Delta variant. People began dying from lack of access to basic health facilities and infrastructure such as oxygen, beds, ventilators and therapeutics. The wave devastated India's citizens in unimaginable ways. Crematoriums ran out of wood, people were forced to bury their family members on the banks of rivers. By the time the wave subsided, India's population was devastated, and helpless, seeing dignity neither in disease nor in death.

Potential fallout

The need then to deny these new mortality figures is much like the case of the emperor's new clothes. The establishment shudders to think what these figures reveal to the public not just about the lack of preparedness but also the human costs to the country, and communities.

Also, at this time, there is rising unemployment, rising fuel prices and inflation in India. The figures then also have enormous political relevance. They are the much-needed ammunition that a beleaguered and often out of sync and clueless Opposition needs to counter the Government's victory drumbeat against COVID-19.

These new figures also have the power to revive public memory which is otherwise short-lived. Human tendency is also to gloss over suffering and believe in the mainstream narrative which makes loss more bearable and often easier. These numbers then are important because they can revive the memories of the desperation and the helplessness millions of Indians faced during the devastating second wave.

The COVID-19 mortality data from WHO is more than a disagreement. It is food for thought and poses several questions to India's health establishment. Were these deaths avoidable? Could India have been better prepared? Was India's health establishment dismissive in the face of global warnings? Should India have gone to elections in the middle of a pandemic? But the most important question is – why not count the dead?

Even for the Government's most fervent supporters, these questions are difficult to answer or deflect when faced with such overwhelming mortality figures. It is no surprise then that those figures create fear and spark denial. The figures ratchet up not only issues of administrative but also moral accountability for governments that they have been previously side stepped through effective and misleading media narratives. But, most importantly, these figures pose several key questions before us, the people of India. How much lack of accountability under-reporting are we willing to accept? Do these reduced figures not amount to an erasure of our collective suffering, grief and loss? And who, if anyone, will be held accountable if these figures are accurate? Perhaps it is just as well that death is the end of all questions.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Demolition drive

What we witnessed in Delhi's Jahangirpuri on April 20 is also due to the indifference of the media which has failed to highlight the misuse of the 'bulldozer' during the election campaign in Uttar Pradesh. The Election Commission of India was also silent, which paved the way for the misuse of construction equipment in election campaigns. There were media reports, in July 2020, that have highlighted the Centre asking States and Union Territories not to insist on registration and driving licence for 'heavy road-building and rehabilitation equipment besides heavy earthmoving machinery', with the reason that they do not fall under the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA). If earthmoving equipment does not fall under the ambit of the MVA, why were bulldozers allowed near venues of election meetings in U.P.? This does not mean they can be freely used for political purposes including the transportation of ruling party workers and supporters.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

■ While there has been outrage over the demolition drive in Jahangirpuri, there has hardly been much media attention on the demolition of religious structures in Rajasthan. Is this because Rajasthan is a Congress-ruled State? The media needs to be investigate the entire issue and present all the facts without any bias, be it Jahangirpuri or Rajasthan.

SANKAR S.,
Kochi

■ The process adopted in removing illegal structures needs to be corrected. Unfortunately, our system is such that the authorities have to take recourse to legal procedures even in cases where everyone knows about the illegality of the said structures. This is where unscrupulous elements take advantage. In a majority of cases, the political leadership is responsible for encroachments. This means that there is an urgent need to amend our existing laws governing such illegal practices. Otherwise, the hands of the authorities would be tied for ever.

GOVARDHANA MYNEEDU,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ The demolitions in Jahangirpuri jeopardise the criminal justice system, as the principle of retaliation is not what we follow, or should follow, in India. Tyrannical action by not issuing prior notice or giving those affected the right to appeal only creates the perception of punitive measure against some.

R.V. LELIX LAL,
Thiruvananthapuram

Ties with the U.K.

The two-day India visit by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson seems successful and was quite visible in his body language. The bilateral relationship between India and the U.K. would improve dramatically with the Free Trade Agreement, also helping Britain post-Brexit.

PRATAPA REDDY YARAMALA,
Tiruvuru, Andhra Pradesh

Inquiry and result

One wonders whether the ongoing interrogation of Sasikala, former AIADMK leader and aide of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, in connection with the Kodanad estate dacoity-cum-murder case will lead to a breakthrough. Inquiry commissions and Special Investigating Teams cost the exchequer a great amount of money. The public needs to know whether there will be a solid result, expecially in this very mysterious case.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

Demolishing the rule of law

The bulldozer itself has now become a symbol of brute state power and a revolting mascot to intimidate minority groups in the country

MATHEW IDICULLA

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation demolition drive underway at Jahangirpuri in New Delhi. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

In the early hours of April 21, a fleet of bulldozers accompanied by hundreds of policemen descended on Jahangirpuri in northwest Delhi to demolish buildings, petty shops, and the entrance gate of a mosque. Soon after the demolitions started, the Supreme Court in an urgent hearing ordered that "status quo" be maintained until further orders, but the demolition continued for over an hour after the order was passed.

The demolition drive was initiated after the Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta wrote to North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) to demolish the "illegal constructions" of the rioters in Jahangirpuri. Communal violence had broken out in the area on April 16 when a Hanuman Jayanti Shobha Yatra, which did not have police permission, clashed with Muslims as it went alongside the mosque. This comes on the heels of other incidents, in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh and Khambhat in Gujarat, where processions during Ram Navami led to communal flare-ups, which were followed by the state-directed demolition of homes of the alleged rioters.

The actions of state and local authorities to bulldoze shops and homes in riot-hit Muslim neighbourhoods citing "illegal encroachment" raises major legal concerns. At one level, such actions show a blatant disregard for the due process of law and established judicial precedents regarding evictions. At another level, it conveys the cynical use of brute state power for collective punishment undermining the basic tenets of criminal law.

"Illegal encroachments"

The statement of the NDMC that the demolition was a part of a drive against "illegal encroachments" seems to be a legal smokescreen for its more insidious action. The binary of legal and illegal settlements has very little meaning in Delhi, and much of urban India, since a majority of urban residents live on the margins of legality. According to the Delhi Economic Survey 2008-09, only about 24% of the city lived in "planned colonies" and the rest lived in informal or unplanned areas ranging from *jhuggi jhopdi* clusters to unauthorised colonies. The Draft Master Plan of Delhi, 2041 also acknowledges the informality that characterises Delhi when it states that such unplanned areas have "emerged as high density, mix-use hubs, providing affordable options for housing, micro, small and medium enterprises".

Within the web of such urban informality, people make claims over property through various legal, political, and documentary means. Since the 1970s, there have been many waves of regularisation of "unauthorised colonies" initiated by the state. In the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections in 2020, the Union Government launched the PM-UDAY (Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana) scheme which confers property rights to residents of unauthorised colonies.

Irrespective of the legal status of the settlement, no public authority can demolish buildings without giving the affected parties a chance to be heard. Neither the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 nor the Delhi Development Act, 1957 allows any authority to demolish a permanent building without serving advance notice. Section 343 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, which allows the corporation to order the demolition of buildings, has a proviso which states that "no order of demolition shall be made" unless a notice is served to give the affected person "a reasonable opportunity of showing cause why such order shall not be made".

Protection against eviction

Beyond the principles of natural justice, the judiciary has further strengthened the rights of residents against eviction. In *Ajay Maken vs Union of India* (2019), a case concerning the legality of the demolition of Shakur Basti, the Delhi High Court held that no authority shall carry out eviction without conducting a survey, consulting the population that it seeks to evict and providing adequate rehabilitation for those eligible. Invoking the idea of the "Right to the City" and the "Right to Adequate Housing" from international law, the court held that slum-dwellers possess the right to housing and should be protected from forced and unannounced eviction. The Delhi High Court had earlier in *Sudama Singh vs Government of Delhi* (2010), mandated that the state should comply with fair procedure before undertaking any eviction which got further crystalised in the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015.

Drawing from judgments in South Africa, the Delhi High Court in Ajay Maken case held that any person who is to be evicted should have a right to "meaningful engagement" with relocation plans. In *Occupiers of 51 Olivia Road, Berea Township vs City of Johannesburg*, the Constitutional Court of South Africa had held that public authorities should engage meaningfully and in good faith with the affected groups and the Court facilitated an agreement that ensured affordable and safe accommodation for the occupiers. In the case of Ajay Maken too, the final judgment was given only after a Draft Protocol for rehabilitation was drawn up after consultative engagements with stakeholders, including the Shakur Basti residents. Given these precedents, before a public authority undertakes any action in Jahangirpuri, it should not only serve notice but also consult those that it seeks to evict.

Rule of the bulldozer state

The demolition of homes and shops of alleged culprits of communal riots portends the establishment of a perilous bulldozer state that dispenses vengeful majoritarian justice. Before taking any punitive action, every accused has to be given a fair trial where both parties provide evidence, and the prosecution has to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused committed a crime. But under the new rule of the bulldozer state, even before any charges are framed, the executive rather than the judiciary arbitrarily imposes a form of collective punishment upon a whole neighbourhood. The state speaks with a forked tongue, claiming that the action is against illegal encroachment while communicating to their intended audience that it was a retributive action.

The bulldozer itself has now become a symbol of brute state power and a revolting mascot to intimidate minorities. The demolition activities seem to be purposefully done under full media glare to convey the unbridled power of the bulldozer state. Worryingly, the new rule of the bulldozer state seems to have some level of public endorsement as the old rule of law takes a back seat. In the midst of such a majoritarian upsurge from the state and society, the rule of law cannot be saved purely through judicial intervention and would need broader political struggles that challenge India's seemingly inexorable descent into tyranny.

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Floundering polio eradication

India to face enormous impact in case of cVDPV3 outbreak

T JACOB JOHN & DHANYA DHARMAPALAN

The recent news of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in Malawi imported from Pakistan and of polio outbreak in Israel caused by 'circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3' (cVDPV3) are visible signs of floundering polio eradication. When a virus in oral polio vaccine (OPV) de-attenuates by mutations, acquiring transmission efficiency and neurovirulence, it is called cVDPV.

The eradication target, when launched in 1988, was 2000, as "a gift of the twentieth century to the twenty-first". The World Health Organization assumed the task, assigned by unanimous resolution in the World Health Assembly (WHA), the forum of Ministers of Health of all nations.

The resolution was perfectly timed: Rotary International launched its 'PolioPlus' project in 1985, to provide polio vaccines to under-five children of all developing countries before 2005. Of the six WHO regions, three – Americas, Europe and Western Pacific – had already independently resolved to eradicate polio in their territories by or before 2000. Incidentally, they achieved the goal more or less on time. WHO's task was essentially confined to the "Southern Arc" of the remaining regions – Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and South East Asia. Having failed the target of 2000, WHO revised it every 4-5 years; now it is 2026, as in the strategy document (https://bit.ly/38fKrkA).

WHO's budget estimate

There are disturbing aspects of this extraordinarily slow pace. The WHO's original budget estimate for eradication was about $5 million, but since 2000, the annual spending is about $1 billion, raised through Rotary, Gates Foundation and rich country governments. A billion dollars is not an insignificant portion of WHO's annual budget. Countries in the three Southern Arc regions continue the eradication drill, like the curse of Sisyphus. India conducts one annual national and two sub-national pulse immunisation campaigns with bivalent (type 1 and 3) OPV (bOPV) for all children below five years, in addition to routine immunisation with five doses – totalling 10 to 15 doses per child in different States.

Every paediatric textbook warns that on rare occasions, OPV itself may cause vaccine-associated paralytic polio (VAPP) in vaccinated children (vaccinated VAPP) and unvaccinated child-contacts (contact VAPP). The commonest cause of vaccinated VAPP is type 3 vaccine virus and for contact VAPP, it is type 2.

These safety problems were known since 1964. For avoiding VAPP, rich countries immunise children with the inactivated polio virus vaccine (IPV), which is completely safe.

Should economics or ethics guide our choice between IPV and OPV? The low cost of OPV could be fallacious: will overall programme-cost be less for 10-15 doses of OPV, including campaigns, than IPV given through Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)? We know of no such analysis.

Benefit-risk balance

Ethics is uncompromising. With SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, benefit-risk balance became widely understood. Against high risk of deaths due to COVID-19, vaccines with rare safety problems, including death, scored well on benefit-risk analysis. When the risk of WPV polio was annually two per 1000 pre-school children, and the risk of VAPP in one per 1,50,000 birth cohorts, the benefit was favourable for OPV. When the risk of death or paralysis falls low, the benefit-risk ratio reverses – as for COVID-19, so also for polio.

After WPV-2 was eradicated in 1999, the benefit of type 2 vaccine virus became defunct. The ethical problem of risk without benefit was neglected until cVDPV2 caused several outbreaks, beginning in 2006, forcing the tOPV (trivalent oral polio vaccine) to bOPV switch in 2016. WHO experts recommended one dose of IPV at 14 weeks of age to mitigate further risks of cVDPV2 outbreaks. But that was too little too late, as more countries continue with cVDPV2 outbreaks than have WPV type 1.

After wild virus type 3 was globally eradicated in 2012, vaccine virus type 3 had to be removed for avoiding VAPP. No agency has any right to cause VAPP in the name of eradication, especially after WPV-3 has been eradicated. This ethical dilemma remained invisible as VAPP is classified non-polio AFP. In Israel, cVDPV3 emerged and caused the outbreak. Only seven children were paralysed, all unvaccinated. The risk of paralysis with WPV-3 is one in 1,000 infected children – so at least 7,000 unvaccinated children were infected. Israel's population is less than 10 million, but ours is 1,400 million.

The probability of cVDPV3 outbreak is low in India, but on account of our population size of 1,400 million, its impact is likely to be enormous. India must withdraw type 3 and continue monovalent type 1 OPV, which also must be withdrawn after reaching 85-90% coverage with IPV, three doses per child.

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Not music to ears

Ilayaraaja and A.R. Rahman were panned by rival ecosystems for expressing political views

D. SURESH KUMAR

There is hardly any nook and corner in Tamil Nadu where the music of Ilayaraaja and A.R. Rahman, wizards of two different generations, has not touched the hearts and souls of people even in the contemporary world. It is unlikely this will change in the years to come, for such is the magic of their creations. Despite being a part of people's lives in Tamil Nadu and beyond, in a span of a fortnight, the two award-winning musicians were panned by rival ecosystems for expressing views of a political nature.

The sharper attacks were directed at Ilayaraaja after he penned a foreword for the book *Ambedkar & Modi: Reformer's Ideas, Performer's Implementation*, comparing and equating Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the father of the Indian Constitution B.R. Ambedkar. The 'Isaignani' (saint of music), who has largely remained politically aloof, saw similarities in the two leaders saying they witnessed poverty and stifling social structures from close quarters and worked to dismantle them. "Both dreamt big for India, but both are also practical men who believe in action rather than mere thought exercise," he felt.

There were dignified responses from a section including politicians, which argued the comparison between the two leaders was "irrational" and "inappropriate" given the different pedestals on which Mr. Ambedkar and Mr. Modi were placed and the nature of their vastly varying political contributions.

However, another section was unsparing and took the criticism beyond political counter. The critics felt let down by the man, whose career began on Communist platforms co-travelling with his elder stepbrother Pavalar Varadarajan. The latter was said to have been hailed by former Kerala Chief Minister E.M.S. Namboodiripad for helping the CPI win the Devikulam by-election in Kerala, staging propaganda songs with a teenaged Ilayaraaja, in the late 1950s. Digressing from the issue at hand, they faulted the musician for his inclination in following the footsteps of 'Brahminical' spiritual gurus, while seeking to alienate himself from his Scheduled Caste roots. The Ilayaraaja's Modi-praising foreword coincided with recent summons issued to him from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, giving them more fodder for suspicion. Top BJP leaders including party president J.P. Nadda lost no opportunity in jumping to the maestro's defence. State BJP president K. Annamalai sought conferment of the Bharat Ratna on the music composer. This invariably triggered charges that the party was seeking to use the music director to further its political cause in Tamil Nadu, just as it made an aborted attempt with superstar Rajinikanth.

A fortnight earlier, Mr. Rahman was embraced by the Dravidian and Left ideologues. Against the backdrop of Home Minister Amit Shah backing Hindi as a "link language" between States, he had put out a subtle tweet with a seemingly modern image of Goddess Tamil highlighting the glory of Tamil and subsequently quipped "Tamil is the link language". Certain right-leaning ideologues from within and outside Tamil Nadu sought to attack Mr. Rahman, as in the past when his daughter defended the burqa. He was accused of portraying Tamil goddess in a 'dark' and 'demonic' form but attempts to orchestrate public opinion against this failed. The musician later stressed the need to cast people of "colour" in important roles in films to break stereotypes.

Ilayaraaja has not backed out from his praise for Mr. Modi or offered any explanation.

Instead, he used music to express himself by tweeting one of his many hit compositions from a Rajinikanth-starrer, the verses of which translate into: "I will not leave you; I will not sleep if you leave. I will sing for you..."

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DATA POINT

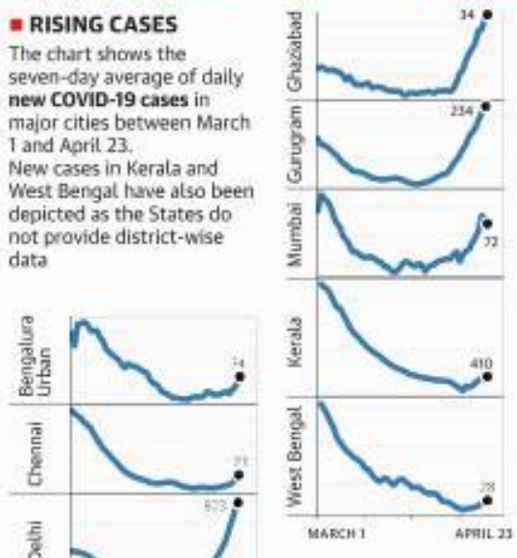
COVID hotspots

India has been recording a steady rise in COVID-19 cases with new infections crossing the 2,000-mark in the past five days. Sub-lineages of Omicron are responsible for this surge. The BA.2.12 sub-lineage was detected in a majority of the samples sequenced from Delhi, where COVID cases jumped from 500 to 1,000 in less than a week. Gautam Budh Nagar and Gurugram, part of the National Capital Region, have seen an uptick in new cases. Cities such as Mumbai and Bengaluru have also recorded significant spikes. Some States have reacted by increasing the number of tests, but the steep increase in test positivity rate indicates that this momentum needs to be continued. Meanwhile, the occupancy of hospital beds in Delhi has remained below 2%. This needs to be monitored in the coming days as it will help gauge the severity of new sub-lineages.

By **Jasmin Nihalani** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

■ RISING CASES

The chart shows the seven-day average of daily **new COVID-19 cases** in major cities between March 1 and April 23.
New cases in Kerala and West Bengal have also been depicted as the States do not provide district-wise data



Delhi has recorded the sharpest rise as cases jumped from 500 to 1,000 in a span of less than a week

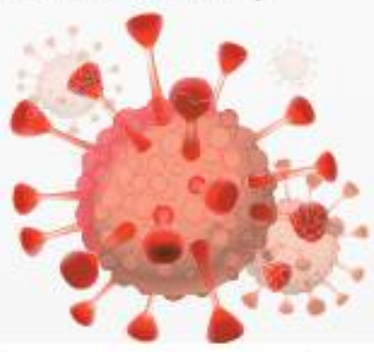
■ POSITIVITY INCHES UP

The chart shows the test positivity rate (%) of select States between March 1 and April 23.
Test positivity rate in Delhi climbed to 4.95%, followed by Haryana (3.3%). While the TPR has been on a rising trend in all the depicted States, it has been below 1% in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

Test positivity rate is calculated by dividing the number of new cases in a region by the number of tests conducted to detect them. On April 23, around five out of every 100 tests conducted in Delhi turned out positive. According to the WHO, a TPR of <5% is an indication that the infection is under control

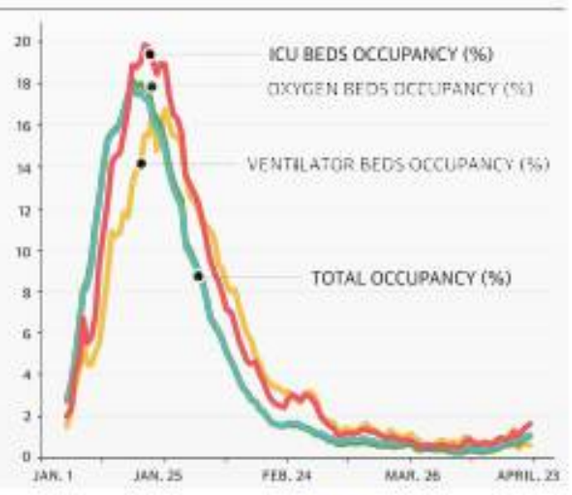
■ BED OCCUPANCY

The chart shows the share of ICU, oxygen, and ventilator beds occupied in Delhi. While there is a slight uptick in occupancy of beds, it has remained under 2%, far below the levels recorded in January



The occupancy rate needs to be monitored in the coming days to understand the severity of the new strains

SOURCE: COVID19BHARAT.ORG, @SHANANALLA



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 25, 1972

What life has in store for man

Austin, April 24: A distinguished group of thinkers and men of affairs, convened here recently, pondered over the "Problems of the 21st century." The occasion was an international symposium at the University of Texas in honour of the late historian, Walter Prescott Webb. It brought together men of such divergent background that they would normally have had little reason to talk to each other, and conflict seemed inevitable. The symposium had five public sessions, at which the great men were allowed to pontificate, and five closed sessions where the razor tongues were barred and the speeches were subjected to analysis by a group of 20 younger scholars and students. Here are some random samples of wisdom distributed in three days of talk about what life will be and should be like in the 21st century. Mr. Raymond Aron, philosopher: "We will live in a heterogeneous world under the shadow of disaster. We will live in a world not without small-scale war, not without guerilla warfare, but we will live in a tolerable world. This is an extreme form of optimism from a man who has the reputation of being a pessimist."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 25, 1922

The national week

The national week has great significance in the eyes of patriotic Indians of all shades of political opinion, but greater still is its importance to the Punjabees who were singled out by Sir Michael O'Dwyer – a true votary of brute force, for punishment and suffering. From the 6th to the 13th of April three years ago the situation in this Province changed with a dramatic suddenness and the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy turned Amritsar into a veritable Golgotha or a place of skulls. But the price was not paid in vain, for the cause for which the innocent people sacrificed their lives triumphed and the Rowlatt Act could not raise its head, because it became a dead letter and expired unwept, unhonoured and unsung. It was in the fitness of things that the Indian nation resolved to celebrate the national week in order to keep green the memory of those who gave their lives so that their countrymen may live and enjoy the rights of free citizens. The All India Congress Working Committee and the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee having decided not to observe hartal on the 6th.

FROM PAGE ONE

Days of misery are over, Modi tells J&K youth

The Banihal-Qazigund Road Tunnel in J&K that was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

He said the connectivity projects initiated across J&K and Ladakh would end the distance from Delhi and several new road projects between Srinagar and Delhi had already reduced the travel time by two hours.

In the coming 25 years, Mr. Modi said, J&K would script a new era of development. "Investors from the UAE I met are excited to invest in J&K," he said. "From just ₹17,000 crore investment in the past 70 years, the figures have touched to ₹38,000 crore in just two years. Investors are coming here with an open mind," Mr. Modi said.

He said J&K was also witnessing a boom in tourism. "Kashmir recorded more tourists in just a few months this year than the past few years. This place is booked till June-July," he added.

The Prime Minister, who laid the foundation stone for the 850-MW Ratle Power Project and 540-MW Kwar Hydel Project, said J&K would be an electricity surplus place soon. "Such projects will help J&K earn money and take J&K to new heights of development," he added.

He said ₹20,000 crore connectivity and electricity-related projects was a big figure for a small place like J&K. "This will speed up development. A large number of youths will get employment," he added.

He described the decision to celebrate the National Panchayati Raj Day in J&K as "a reflection of a big change being witnessed here".

"For the first time, three-tier elections from village to district level were held peacefully. Over 30,000 representatives are now running the village system on their own," Mr. Modi said.

He expressed satisfaction over the implementation of 175 Central laws in J&K since the August 5, 2019 move to end J&K's special constitutional position.

Two held in Sunjwan case, JeM tried to scuttle PM's visit: police

Arrest of local people made on the basis of detailed technical analysis, says ADGP

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested two local people in connection with the April 22 Sunjwan attack in Jammu, which was "carried out by two Pashto-speaking *fidayeens* of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM)" and was aimed at "scuttling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jammu visit".

"The two Pashto-speaking terrorists used a mobile phone of Shafiq Ahmad Sheikh from Pulwama's Tral to call his 'commander' across the border. Sheikh was instructed to identify an establishment of security forces. The attack was aimed at inflicting maximum casualties so that the VVIP visit does not happen," Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh said.

He said both the terrorists seemed to have freshly infiltrated and were picked up from Samba in a vegetable truck. "Sheikh has told the police that they [terrorists] were not speaking Kashmiri, Hindi or Dogri. They spoke Pashto, which suggested they might either be from Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or Afghanistan. However, a tip-off provided by intelligence helped the security forces to confine them and deter them from carrying out any major attack," Mr. Singh said.

Close call: J&K Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh visits the spot after an encounter at Sunjawan in Jammu. • PTI

The police said the two arrests made so far were on the basis of detailed technical analysis. Sheikh works at a walnut factory in Jammu. The house where he used to stay is owned by Iqbal Ahmad, originally a resident of Damhal Hanji Pora at Jalalabad in Jammu. He too has been arrested.

According to the police, a medium-sized truck of Bilal Ahmad Wagay from the Kokernag area in Anantnag was used to ferry the terrorists in Jammu.

Detailed plan

"A few days ahead of the attack, Sheikh came from Kashmir. He was told that a few men will come and a Kashmiri person will get them. Wagay, who owned trucks, started from Pulwama [on April 21] and stayed at Transport Nagar, Jammu, before heading for Sukhwal in Samba around 12 a.m. He picked up the two terrorists and hid them in a cavity created by vegetable crates around 1.30 a.m. They reached Sheikh's place at Jalalabad around 2.30 a.m.," Mr. Singh said.

The police said Sheikh's brother Asif, at the behest of the JeM, had procured a SIM card and a mobile phone in advance. "Asif also set up a Telegram ID at the behest of JeM with the name 'Pagal Jamaat'. The JeM commander Telegram ID is 'Veer'. They were in touch with each other on Telegram," he Singh said.

The police said the CCTV footage had corroborated the analysis of the security agencies and the movement of the vehicle in Samba and Jammu districts.

"An investigation is on. More arrests are likely in coming days," Mr. Singh said.

One Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer was killed and four were injured in the gunfight between the hiding militants and security forces at Sunjwan in Jammu on April 22. The attack took place just two days ahead of Mr. Modi's first public address in Jammu and Kashmir since the Centre stripped the erstwhile State's special constitutional position.

Union Minister's son back in jail

Ashish surrenders before a U.P. court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, on Sunday surrendered before a local court in Lakhimpur Kheri a week after the Supreme Court on April 18 set aside the bail granted to him by the Allahabad High Court in the killing of farmers in October 2021.

"Ashish has surrendered in the court. We were given a week's time but as Monday was the last day, he surrendered a day ahead," Mr. Ashish's counsel Awadesh Singh told *PTI*. While setting aside his bail, the apex court had directed him to surrender in a week.

Mr. Ashish, alias Monu, was sent back to the Lakhimpur Kheri district jail, officials said. Jail Superintendent P.P. Singh said Ashish will be kept in a separate barracks in the jail due to security reasons.

Eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during the violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area on October 3, 2021.

Cancelling his bail, the Supreme Court said the victims were denied "a fair and effective hearing" in the Allahabad High Court, which adopted a "myopic view of the evidence".

Ashish Mishra

The top court had also noted that a victim has unbridled participatory rights from the stage of investigation till the culmination of the proceedings in an appeal or revision.

Holding that the High Court order cannot be sustained, the SC termed the incident, if true as per allegations, as "an awakening call" to the State authorities to reinforce adequate protection for the life, liberty and properties of the witnesses as well as for the families of the dead.

(With inputs from PTI)

Consumer spending survey to resume in July

The schedule lists out the items on which information is sought. In November 2019, the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry had dismissed reports that the 2017-18 Survey findings were withheld due to adverse outcomes reflecting a decline in spending.

The Ministry had also said it was examining the feasibility of conducting the next Survey in 2020-21 and 2021-22 after "incorporating all data quality refinements in the survey process" recommended by an expert panel that vetted the 'discrepancies' in the 2017-18 results. The Survey could not be launched in the past two years due to the pandemic, the official said. "...There was a significant increase in the divergence in not only the levels in the consumption pattern but also the direction of the change when compared to the other administrative data sources like the actual production of goods and services," the Ministry said about the previous Survey.

Fresh one-off surveys on consumer expenditure and employment and unemployment were commissioned over 2011-12 after the usually scheduled Surveys conducted in 2009-10 had coincided with a worldwide slowdown following the 2008 global financial crisis and a drought year in India. Though the fresh Surveys at the time were necessitated due to the unusual circumstances, the data from the 2009-10 Survey was released in public domain.

Jahangirpuri takes a leap towards harmony

The march was attended by the locality's residents' welfare association members as well. Most of the shops and houses in the area also had a tricolour hoisted outside the premises.

Amjad Ali, a resident of C Block, said he had sent his children to attend the yatra and has hoisted a flag on top of his house and his chicken shop in order to show support to peace in the locality.

"I got to know three days ago that such a yatra was being carried out in the area, so I've sent my children to be part of it...even they (children) have stepped out after days of chaos, now there is normalcy in the area," Mr. Ali said.

Marching along with the group, another Muslim resident said there will be no enmity and both the communities will live alongside each other just like they have in all these years. "We are like brothers here and we will stay here like a family as we have lived in the last 40 years," he said.

Businessman Rakesh Mehra, said the march was "a first step towards peace" and that those who carried out the violence "were outsiders". "Those who caused disharmony here were all outsiders...one of my friends was also injured in the clashes but I want to forget what happened on that day and spread the message of peace".

Deputy Commissioner of Police Usha Rangnani had said adequate security arrangements had been made to curb any breach of protocols. The police had removed the barricades from the C Block roundabout during the march to ensure smooth movement of the residents.

Apart from teams of Delhi Police, CRPF jawans were also deployed in the area.

The yatra comes days after communal clashes broke out in Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri after a 'Shobha Yatra' to celebrate Hanuman Jayanti. was taken out in the area. The violence escalated into instances of stone pelting and vandalism. Police has so far arrested 25 persons and apprehended two juveniles in connection with the incident.

Last week, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation carried out an "anti-encroachment" drive in the area and ended up uprooting several shops, belonging mostly to Muslim residents of C-Block. The apex court later ordered status quo on the drive.

Court sends Mevani to one day custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOKRAJHAR

A local court here on Sunday sent Gujarat Independent legislator Jignesh Mevani, arrested from the western State by the Assam Police on Wednesday for a purported tweet against the Prime Minister, to one day's judicial custody, a police official said. Hearing in his case, including his bail petition, will be taken up on Monday, he added.

Mr. Mevani was apprehended from Palanpur town in Gujarat on Wednesday night after an FIR was filed in Kokrajhar Police Station.

'Unity in diversity' is civilisational heritage: Khan

Kerala Governor says fighting over religion, caste, creed in the past few centuries is a distortion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan on Sunday said "unity in diversity" in India was not born out of necessity but was "our civilisational and cultural heritage".

"...even during the Vedic period, the diversity of languages and religious faiths and expression of devotion existed in India. Later, it was asserted," Mr. Khan said.

Indian society, he added, had never accepted rulers in power "but thought leaders such as *rishis* and *munis*" as their ideal.

He was speaking at the Capital Foundation National Awards function in Delhi where eminent personalities – Justice Madan B. Lokur (retd.), Justice G. Raghuram (retd.), Narinder Dhruv Batra, Shekhar Gupta, Ranbir Singh, N.G. Rajurkar, R.K. Man, P. Ishwara Bhat, Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal (retd.), K.Y. Ramachandra Rao, P.V. Rajagopal, Ganesh Chandru, Uday Kotak, Dwaipayan Pattanaik, Major General Narendra Kotwal (retd.) and C. Harshavardhan Reddy – were presented awards for their contributions in various fields.

Role models

"The women and men of India – the colours of their skin are different, their rituals and cultures are different, they worship different gods. We will have to accept that Indian society never accepted the rulers in power as their ideal. The ideals have always been thought leaders – the *rishis* and *munis*," he said.

> The women and men of India – the colours of their skin are different, their rituals and cultures are different, they worship different gods. We will have to accept that Indian society never accepted the rulers in power as their ideal. The ideals have always been thought leaders – the *rishis* and *munis*
> ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN, Kerala Governor

He added that India had made *atma* [spirituality] as the basis of defining its civilisation and culture.

"Unfortunately, the history of the few hundred years has been so overwhelming ...all the time, [there is] fighting over religion, caste, creed, community as if that is our heritage. No, that is not our heritage, that is a distortion and this distortion [is] mainly claimed because of another weakness. India has always been considered as a knowledge civilisation...we were the worshippers of *Maa Saraswati* but we became villains when we denied knowledge to our own people. In the process, we weakened our society, we became weak and vulnerable. This is the greatest blunder which we have committed," Mr. Khan said.

N.V. Ramana completes a year as CJI

His Collegium scripted history by initiating appointment of 9 SC judges in one go

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday completed a year as top judge, leading the Supreme Court in several interventions from ordering an inquiry into the Pegasus snooping allegations to cancelling bail to a Union Minister's son accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri killings and ordering status quo of the Jahangirpuri demolition drive.

The year also saw the CJI create a consensus within the powerful Supreme Court Collegium, which went on to script history by initiating the appointment of nine Supreme Court judges in one go – a rare achievement. One of the nine judges, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, would become first woman Chief Justice of India.

But what had really set Chief Justice Ramana apart was his role as an ambassador of the judiciary to the public.

The CJI has, despite the limitations thrown by the pandemic, made a constant effort to communicate, and through his speeches, remove any disconnect between the public and the judiciary.

N.V. Ramana

The Ramana Collegium's success has also replenished the judicial ranks in the constitutional courts. His immediate predecessor was unable to make a single judicial appointment to the Supreme Court. Besides the filling up of nine apex court vacancies in August last year, the Collegium had recommended 192 names for appointment as judges in the High Courts.

Of them, 126 have been appointed by the government and nearly 20% of those recommended are women.

However, several cases, including petitions challenging the sedition law, continue to remain pending in the Supreme Court.

Another pending case is a challenge to the electoral bonds scheme. Chief Justice Ramana had recently, on an oral mentioning by advocate Prashant Bhushan, agreed to list the case.

Argentina acknowledges Indian support

BJP members declined to attend the event two days after hosting Boris Johnson

NISTULA HEBBAR
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The inaugural of "The Commission for Dialogue" with the United Kingdom on the Falkland Islands has run into rough weather as members of the commission from the BJP declined to attend the event after the party expressed uneasiness over the launch just two days after hosting U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Launching the Commission here on Sunday, Foreign Minister of Argentina Santiago Cafiero acknowledged India's traditional support for resolving the "territorial dispute", and said, "Argentina and India share same anti-colonial heritage and values."

Mr. Cafiero declared launch of the Commission in the presence of a large number of envoys based here. However, former Union Minister and BJP leader Suresh Prabhu, who was scheduled to appear at the event, stayed away. "I am currently travelling to the United States to visit several universities and speaking there. I am not thus obviously part of this event as reported," he said in a social media message in response to *The Hindu* report of Sunday.

BJP spokesperson Shazia Ilmi, whose name appeared in the list of members of the Commission, made a brief appearance before the launch of the formal segment but did not stay for the actual launch of the Commission. Addressing the inaugural event, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said India has been a votary of negotiated settlement over the Falkland Islands over which Argentina and the U.K. had fought a landmark war in 1982. Mr. Tharoor, a member of the Commission, referred to India's leading role in decolonising the Global South and said, "India supports resolution of intractable disputes through dialogue."

Speaking at the event, Mr. Cafiero acknowledged the "brotherhood between India and Argentina" and urged the U.K. and the international community to declassify the records of the 1982 Falklands War as that would shed new light on the record of the U.K. "[The] U.K. exposed the entire South Atlantic region by transporting nuclear weapons in the region. The nuclear weapons that the U.K. transported during the war equalled to 20 Hiroshimas," said Mr. Cafiero.

Mr. Cafiero told *The Hindu* that India is expected to support Argentina in various global platforms including the Security Council.

"There is no place for colonialism in the 21st century and we are very happy to find support from India at the launch of the Commission here," said Mr. Cafiero who met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar ahead of the launch of the Commission. Mr. Cafiero will participate in the annual Raisina Dialogue during from April 25 to 27.

Structural biologist Vijayan passes away

He was awarded Padma Shri in 2004

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Eminent structural biologist M. Vijayan, DAE Homi Bhabha Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), passed away in Bengaluru on Sunday morning. Professor Vijayan, who was instrumental in the development of macromolecular crystallography in India, was 80.

Born in Cherpu, Thrissur, in 1941, Professor Vijayan graduated from Kerala Varma College, and continued his studies in Allahabad University, before pursuing his Ph.D. in X-ray Crystallography from IISc, Bangalore.

His main research areas covered protein structures, lectins, and interactions of mycobacterial proteins.

"One of the foremost crystallographers of India, Professor Vijayan successfully established & expanded macromolecular crystallography in the country. He also mentored several successful researchers in his laboratory at MBU, IISc," the Molecular Biophysics Unit (MBU), IISc, tweeted on Sunday.

M. Vijayan

As a post-doctoral fellow in the U.K., he was a co-researcher with Dorothy Hodgkin, the 1964 Nobel laureate in Chemistry. On his return to India in 1971, he joined the MBU at IISc.

He was the Associate Director of IISc from 2000 to 2004. A recipient of the Padma Shri and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Professor Vijayan was the president of the Indian National Science Academy from 2007 to 2010.

He had played a role in Kerala's higher education sector. He chaired the Higher Education Commission that designed the choice-based credit and semester system in Kerala in 2010.

APPEAL

I am **Angel** aged 8 years suffering from Retinoblastoma. Kindly help me to combat this disease as I require **Rs. 8,00,000/-** towards Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai **will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank), Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No.CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. **(Please do not mention patient's name on the cheque).**

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/9941843362.** EMail ID: **womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: **www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.**

Angel

Palli in Jammu becomes India's first carbon-neutral panchayat

It is a major step towards achieving the Glasgow goal, says Prime Minister Modi

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

Palli village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first panchayat in the country to become carbon-neutral, fully powered by solar energy. All its records have been digitised and the benefits of all the Central schemes are available in this village around 17 km from Jammu.

Inaugurating a 500-kilowatt solar plant in Palli, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while it would take three weeks to move a *sarkari* file from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir, this project, with the help of villagers, was completed in a record time of three weeks.

Referring to the Glasgow Climate Change Conference which he attended last year, Mr. Modi said he was witness to speeches and statements being made during the conference on reducing carbon generation. "It's India that has come up with a living example in the form of Palli village to the Glasgow pledge. Palli village, with its enthusiastic and dedicated elected representatives full of dreams, has shown how to implement the Glasgow pledge," Mr. Modi said.

All cheers: Supporters attending a rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Panchayati Raj Day at Palli on Sunday. • PTI

Palli was a major step towards the Glasgow goal of making India carbon-neutral.

Palli village was also an example of the slogan *Sabka prayas* (everyone's efforts). "Every household in Palli offered *rotis* to workers who completed the solar power plant," he added.

Powerful panchayats

He described Palli as a model panchayat, which is bound to motivate other panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir and the country to become carbon-neutral.

Underlining the role of panchayats and gram panchayats in the country, Mr. Modi said panchayats had to play a central role in decision-making of a village. "Now a villager can check his mobile to know the status of a scheme and the money spent on it."

He said the government was pushing for major technology-related measures, e-swaraj and mode of payments to make panchayats more powerful. "We aim that all basic issues included in citizens' charter are addressed at the village level," Mr. Modi said. Whether it was panchayat or Parliament, no work was small or big. "Panchayats will become mediums for the country to reach new heights," the Prime Minister said.

He asked panchayats to participate in the movement "to segregate waste at the doorstep and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers".

PM receives Lata Mangeshkar Award

The late singer was India's cultural ambassador and my elder sister, says Modi

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Paying tribute to the late Lata Mangeshkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said she was India's cultural ambassador who left an indelible imprint in the world of music over her nearly eight-decade-long career.

Mr. Modi was speaking at Shanmukhananda Hall in Mumbai, where he received the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award, instituted in memory of the legendary singer who passed away in February this year, aged 92.

The award citation praised Mr. Modi as "an international statesman who has put India on the path of global leadership".

Symbol of love

Saluting the singer as the 'empress of music', the Prime Minister said Lata Mangeshkar was akin to his elder sister. "When the award is in the name of an elder sister like Lata*didi*, it is a symbol of her oneness and love for me. I dedicate this award to all my countrymen. Like she stood for everyone, the award in her memory also belongs to all. What can be a greater privilege than to have got the love of a sister from Lata*didi* who has given the gift of love and emotion to generations," Mr. Modi said.

In memory: Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award in Mumbai on Sunday. • PTI

He added that while he did not usually take to award ceremonies, it was his duty to come and accept this award which was a symbol of the affection of the Mangeshkar family towards him.

"Lata*didi* sang in more than 30 Indian languages. She was present in the hearts of people from every region. She helped bring the devotional songs of our great poet-saints Tulsidas, Dnyaneshwar, Mirabai and Narsinh Mehta into the public consciousness with her mellifluous recitals," Mr. Modi said.

Warm ties

Speaking of his warm ties and long association with the Mangeshkar family, Mr. Modi reminisced how [late classical singer] Sudhir Phadke had introduced him to Lata Mangeshkar 40 to 45 years ago.

"Since then, I have received unlimited affection. I say with great pride that Lata*didi* was akin to my elder sister. Generations of singers have been inspired by her," he said.

The Prime Minister made special mention of Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital established by the late singer in Pune and commended the establishment on its yeoman service for the poor, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Modi, insisting on sitting in the audience, was flanked by Asha Bhosle and Usha Mangeshkar on his left, and by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on his right.

The Prime Minister was received at the Mumbai airport on his arrival by Maharashtra Environment, Tourism and Protocol Minister Aaditya Thackeray.

'Caste pressure' behind death of SI, says Akhilesh

She was harassed by officers, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Officials of the Kshatriya community to which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath belongs are carrying out "injustice" in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said on Sunday.

Mr. Yadav levelled the allegation after visiting the relatives of a woman sub-inspector, Rashmi Yadav, who was found hanging at her official quarters in Amethi on Friday. The police have termed the death suicide due to depression over personal reasons.

Mr. Yadav questioned the circumstances under which Ms. Yadav had to allegedly take her own life. Citing information from local sources, Mr. Yadav alleged that there was "political pressure" at the Mohanganj police station where the woman officer was posted.

"The government which would accuse others that work is going on as per caste, you can take a look at U.P. from one end to another – aren't people from the CM's caste posted there? Are people from the CM's caste not meting out injustice," Mr. Yadav asked.

He said the district police chief as well as the station officer belonged to the same Kshatriya community.

Later, in a tweet, Mr. Yadav raised the caste factor again, saying it was sad and condemnable the way in which a woman sub-inspector of a "backward caste" was compelled to commit suicide after harassment by police officers belonging to a "dominant caste". He demanded that the courts take cognisance of the case, suspend those responsible and conduct a probe.

Braving the heat

Sizzling Sunday: Pavement dwellers carrying drinking water on a hot summer day in Kolkata on Sunday. The city recorded the season's highest temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius. • PTI

Kapoor's allegations are political vendetta: Cong.

It is an attempt to create 'fear psychosis'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Countering the statement by Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor that he was "forced" to buy an M.F. Husain painting from Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the party on Sunday termed it "political vendetta" and an attempt to create a "fear psychosis".

Party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Manu Singhvi, at a press conference, questioned the credibility of Mr. Kapoor, who has been arrested on charges of financial fraud, as well as the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

According to the second supplementary chargesheet filed by the ED in a special court in Mumbai, Mr. Kapoor claimed he was "forced" to buy the painting from Ms. Vadra and the sale proceeds were utilised for the medical treatment of Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New York.

The Yes Bank co-founder stated that the then Petroleum Minister Murli Deora had cautioned him that the refusal to buy the painting would not only prevent him from building a relationship with the Gandhi family but also prevent him from getting the Padma Bhushan.

Mr. Kapoor further added that the late Ahmed Patel, a close confidant of Ms. Gandhi, had told him that by supporting the Gandhi family, he [Kapoor] had performed a good deed.

"This is absolutely astonishing. I don't want to use a strong word, it is absolutely disgusting that a 2010 transaction, a person who is behind bars for years, whose 20-30 bail applications have been rejected, who is called a crook and a fraudster, makes allegations about dead people and the government is jumping with joy only because it suits their political angle," Mr. Singhvi said.

"The government wants to keep the pot boiling for 2022, for a transaction in 2010, when neither Murli Deora is here to deny it nor Ahmed Patel is here to deny," he said.

"What is the objective of this? Is it the result of your (government) pressure tactics and coercion on a person behind bars eager to get his freedom to record statements against political opponents and to keep a 12-year-old thing boiling just for convenience of politics?"

Anti-defection law needs to be reformed: Venkaiah

It allows wholesale defection, but not retail: Vice-President

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday said there was a need to amend the anti-defection legislation in the country to plug existing loopholes.

"There are certain loopholes in the anti-defection law. It allows wholesale defection. But retail defection is not allowed. Amendments are required to plug the loopholes," Mr. Naidu said. He was delivering a lecture on "Media's role in new India" at the Press Club here.

Time frame for action

Stating that there was no clarity in the law about the time frame for the action of the House Chairperson or Speaker in anti-defection cases, he said: "Some cases are taking six months and some even three years. There are cases that are disposed of after the term is over. I personally believe that these anti-defection cases can be disposed of in three months."

M. Venkaiah Naidu

It is also the dharma of politicians and a requirement as per the Constitution to leave the post that they are holding when they change parties, he said.

Referring to the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha, he said: "I also get disgusted with the proceedings in Rajya Sabha sometimes. Wonderful debates do take place. Unfortunately, when things change, good speeches that help contribute to the legislative making do not happen."

He also lamented that political parties starting media outlets were weakening the democracy.

Social media rules

Mr. Naidu said he had sought some kind of a regulation on social media. "It is not censorship. But at a time of hatred and religious tension, Parliament has to seriously view the issue and come out with certain regulations. I have spoken about the need for regulation in Parliament too."

He said political parties should lay down certain code of conduct to be followed and members should follow them. The Vice-President also pointed out that the character, capacity, calibre and conduct that is the hallmark of politics has been replaced with caste, community, cash and communalism. Referring to Panchayati Raj Day observed on Sunday, Mr. Naidu appealed to the State governments to strengthen the local bodies that will enable strengthening of democracy in the country.

Hanuman Chalisa row: Ranas remanded in judicial custody

Mumbai court to hear plea of MP, husband on April 29

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband, Ravi Rana, were remanded in judicial custody for 14 days, till May 6, by a holiday court at Bandra in Mumbai on Sunday.

The court refused to hold an immediate hearing on their bail petition. Their plea will now be heard on April 29.

Mr. Rana will be sent to the Arthur Road jail, while Ms. Rana will be lodged in the Byculla jail till the hearing of their bail plea.

Ms. Rana, MP for Amravati, and Mr. Rana, an Independent legislator for Badnera (one of the eight Assembly seats in Amravati district), were arrested by the Mumbai police on Saturday for "promoting enmity between different groups and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony". The couple had threatened to recite the Hanuman Chalisa in front of the residence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Was assaulted, says BJP leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya stirred a controversy late on Saturday after he claimed that he was assaulted by Shiv Sena workers while accusing the Mumbai police of "kowtowing" to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

The BJP leader claimed that a group of 70 to 80 Shiv Sainiks pelted his car with bottles, stones and footwear with the intent of taking his life, when he paid a "solidarity visit" to the Ranas at the Khar police station. He further accused Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey of acting at the behest of the Chief Minister.

Fair probe

However, Deputy Commissioner of Police Manjunath Shinge said that while a case had been lodged based on Mr. Somaiya's complaint, the probe would be fair and impartial.

Firmly standing by the actions of the police, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil on Sunday said Mr. Somaiya had no business visiting the arrested couple knowing fully well that it could stoke further discontent.

The Ranas eventually called off their plan in the face of Shiv Sena protests. The couple said they were stepping back due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mumbai on Sunday. The Mumbai police, however, arrested them on Saturday evening.

Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 35, 37 and 135 of the Bombay Police Act have been slapped on the couple in the FIR lodged by the police.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES : TIRUPATI
(A University established by an Act of A.P. State Legislature)

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through e-tendering process (Two bid system) for (a) Medicines & Lab items required for SVIMS, BIRRD, SPCHC & Central Hospital, TTD for the period 2022-2024 (b) Medical Equipment (c) Equipment on reagent rentals (d) Refilling of O_2 (D,B), N_2O (D)/N_2, Co2. For details log on to the web site https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.
NOTE: The items under (b) & (c) will be notified on 29-04-2022.
DONATE LIBERALLY TO " SRI BALAJI AROGYA VARAPRASADINI SCHEME"
Sd/- DIRECTOR-cum-V.C.

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/Drugs/Others/40/2022-23 Date: 22.04.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e- Procurement)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bangalore - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the e-procurement portal of GOK for:-

(1) Drugs, Surgicals and Disposable Items
(2) Radiology Items

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.04.2022** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **25.05.2022** upto **4.00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer,
Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/251/2022-23

BJP, ally sweep Guwahati civic polls; Cong. draws a blank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

More than a month after bagging 75 of the 80 municipal boards across Assam, the Bharatiya Janata Party and its regional ally on Sunday swept the premier Guwahati Municipal Corporation elections. The BJP and its ally, the Asom Gana Parishad, won 58 of the corporation's 60 wards. The former won 52 of the 52 seats it contested and the latter won six of the seven seats it contested.

The Congress, which contested 54 wards – the most among the political parties – drew a blank, while new entrants, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Assam Jatiya Parishad won a ward each.

The AAP candidates put up a tough fight, losing a few of the seats by a narrow margin.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the people of Guwahati for the "resounding mandate" to the BJP "to build on the agenda of development". Taking to Twitter, he said the voters of Guwahati blessed the hard work of the State government under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Mr. Sarma termed it an historic win for the party, and said the mandate reaffirmed the people's faith in the government under the guidance of the Prime Minister.

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE दिनांक/ Date. 21.04.2022

"भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "एसडीएससी शार के एसएलपी क्षेत्र में एसपी2बी क्लीन रूम में वर्तमान रिटन एयर डक्ट को बदलना" (पीटी–एसी–22-004, अनुमानित लागत रु 18.12 लाख)य केलिए ई–टेंडरिंग केमाध्यम से मद–दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को 05.05.2022 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार इसरो वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें। "On behalf of President of India, item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Replacement of existing return air duct in SP2b clean rooms at SLP area, SDSC SHAR" (PT-AC-22-004, Est. cost Rs.18.12 Lakhs) Tender documents can be downloaded up to 05.05.2022, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

INTERVIEW | ZBIGNIEW RAU

'Hope India reconsiders position, takes a more critical stance on Russia'

Polish Foreign Minister calls for India to join humanitarian conference on Ukraine, seeks support on demand for Russia's ouster from G-20

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Poland has been one of the most vocal members of the European Union and NATO in demanding tougher sanctions and more defence spending to counter Russia's war in Ukraine. Polish Foreign Minister **Zbigniew Rau**, *who will speak at the Raisina Dialogue of the External Affairs Ministry, hopes India will take a more critical stance against Russia's actions now. Excerpts:*

Your visit to India to attend the Raisina Dialogue comes as the Russian war in Ukraine has completed two months. What are your hopes from the visit?

■ I will be keen to share my assessment of this unjustified war and its consequences (also for Russia and its citizens) with my Indian interlocutors. I know that India also stands for the independence and territorial integrity of all sovereign states and condemns violence as the *modus operandi* in international relations. Aggression against sovereign countries must be condemned as it threatens global peace and order. In this regard I can see convergence of views with my Indian interlocutors.

On May 5, we are organising in Warsaw – together with Sweden – a high-level donors conference aimed at gathering humanitarian support for Ukraine from all over the world. We also need to think about the reconstruction of Ukraine already now. We encourage India strongly to take part in this difficult process as well.

How much of Poland's assessment of Russia's plans in Ukraine was shared with the Indian government before the war, and how do you see India's response to the crisis?

■ Poland has been warning the international community, including India, about the aggressive policy of Russia for a very long time. We still remember Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008, as well as Russia's first aggression against Ukraine in 2014. We can see that India is monitoring the situation closely and we do hope that over the time it will also take a more critical stance towards Russia's belligerent behaviour.

Putin's vicious war presented us all with a new reality of slower growth, trade disruptions and steeper inflation, harming the poorest and most vulnerable

New Delhi has not criticised Russia's actions in Ukraine directly so far...and has stepped up oil purchases at discounted prices from Russia, discussed an alternative payment mechanism. Will you raise these in talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar?

■ We believe that the time has come for all democratic countries, which abide by international law and hold dear basic human rights, to stop all oil and gas imports from Russia. We are aware that Russia tries to circumvent restrictive measures imposed by the EU and other like-minded countries through enhanced cooperation with certain partners. Every country should be extremely cautious in its relations with Russian authorities. India –as an important member of global community, member of G20 and the sixth largest economy in the world, with a long-standing tradition of democracy and non-violence – has a special role to play in this regard.

Poland has also stepped up a campaign to ensure Russia is not included in the G20 in Indonesia this year. As India takes over Presidency of the G20 in December, have you discussed this directly?

■ We believe that in the face of Russia's unprovoked military aggression towards Ukraine, there is no room for "business as usual" in international organisations. Russia and Belarus should be excluded or suspended from the rights of members of international organizations, G20 included. We are aware of close ties connecting India with Russia, resulting mainly from traditional Indian multipolar foreign policy and its commitment to the values of non-alignment. However, we perceive a grave risk of diminishing the role of G20, as some of its members, especially G7 countries and their allies may formally oppose any form of Russian engagement within G20 and their representatives may not be willing to participate in any meetings with their Russian counterparts.

Putin's vicious war presented us all with a new reality of slower growth, trade disruptions and steeper inflation, harming especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Therefore, we hope that India could rethink the role of Russia in G20 and discuss this issue with those Group members, which took positive or neutral stance regarding future participation of Russia in G20 works.

We believe that the boycott of any meetings with the participation of Russian representatives, or cancelling Russia's invitation to the G20 summit (this year under the G20 presidency of Indonesia) should remain on the table. We call for reform of the G20 – Russia should be excluded from the Group and we would be keen to take its place. We would be glad if India could reconsider its position regarding the role of Russia in G20.

(The full interview can be accessed online at https://bit.ly/PolandFMInterview)

Use Covishield from GAVI, SII asks Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Serum Institute of India has urged the Centre to use the available 10 crore doses of Covishield offered free of cost by GAVI under the COVAX facility in view of rising COVID-19 cases in the country, an official source said.

The Pune-based firm has written to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHF) that if these 10 crore free doses of Covishield are not taken by the Indian government timely, it will lead to wastage of the life-saving vaccines amid the pandemic outbreak.

Apart from 14 crore doses given previously, GAVI has offered 10 crore doses of Covishield free of cost to India under the COVAX facility, the source said.

Go for a 'cashless day out' to boost digital economy, says PM

Small online payments are helping build a big digital economy, Modi says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to go for a "cashless day out" every once in a while to benefit the digital economy, adding that online payments were developing a digital economy and encouraging an atmosphere of "honesty" with over ₹20,000-crore transactions taking place daily in the country.

In his monthly radio broadcast, *Mann Ki Baat*, Mr. Modi said small online payments were helping build a big digital economy and many new fintech start-ups were coming up.

He urged people who had any experience related to digital payments and the start-up ecosystem to share it with others.

People with experience related to digital payments should share it with others. Your experiences can be a source of inspiration for others in the country

Just like in sports, *divyangjan* (differently abled) are doing wonders in arts, academics and many other fields. With the power of technology, they are achieving greater heights
NARENDRA MODI Prime Minister

"Your experiences can be a source of inspiration for others in the country," he said.

He said people from across the country had written letters and messages to him about the Museum of Prime Ministers inaugurated on April 14, the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

"There can be no better time than 75 years of India's Independence to remember the contribution of Prime Ministers," Mr. Modi said.

He urged people to visit a local museum during holidays and share their experiences using the hashtag 'MuseumMemories'.

He asked four questions to test his listeners' general knowledge on the country's famous museums. "We have spoken about a museum for so long; now, I would like to ask you some questions... let's see how good your general knowledge is," he said. Mr. Modi also gave clues for each question to help with the answers.

Mr. Modi noted that just as in sports, *divyangjan* (differently abled) were doing wonders in arts, academics and many other fields. With the power of technology, they were achieving greater heights, he said.

He urged people to take COVID-19 precautions during festivals in May.

Ola Electric recalls 1,441 EVs over scooter fire in Pune

Pure EV, Okinawa too have recalled some of their vehicles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Ola Electric has announced a voluntary recall of a specific batch of 1,441 of its S1 Pro e-scooters in the wake of a fire in one of its vehicles in Pune last month.

"As a pre-emptive measure, we will be conducting a detailed diagnostics and health check of the scooters in that specific batch and therefore are issuing a voluntary recall of 1,441 vehicles," Ola said in a statement on Saturday.

The EV maker said the battery pack in the scooters already complied with, and was tested for, AIS 156, the proposed standard for India. The pack was also compliant with the European standard ECE 136, it said.

Referring to the March 26 Pune incident, Ola said while an internal investigation was ongoing, a preliminary assessment revealed "that the thermal incident was likely an isolated one".

Ola Electric says an internal investigation is ongoing.

On Saturday, Ola Electric founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal told visiting journalists at the company's plant near Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu that the company had commissioned "world-class agencies" to establish the root cause of the Pune incident.

"We are doing an in-depth report, it will take a few weeks," Mr. Aggarwal said.

"We will share that with everyone. Our intent, government's intent and industry's intent are to make sure consumer confidence on electrification remains high," he said.

Pure EV and Okinawa Scooters had already announced the recall of some batches.

Asserting that the objective of a recall was to fix the root cause, Mr. Aggarwal said: "For us safety is first and quality comes next. This will be vouched for by all the 1,800 women employees here"

Nagaland caseload dips to zero

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOHIMA

Nagaland became a coronavirus-free State on Sunday with the lone active COVID patient from Dimapur district recovering from the infection, a senior Health Department official said.

The active case count hit zero for the first time in the northeastern State since the detection of three COVID patients on May 25, 2020, he said.

The caseload remained at 35,488 as no fresh infection was reported in the last 24 hours, the official said

'Nagas without borders' spreads message of unity

On its 75th anniversary, the students' body brings Nagas from across northeast, Myanmar together

RAHUL KARMAKAR
MANIPUR

The visits of Nokpai Chonglymn and Chhangpoh S.V. to India for education, healthcare or for procuring essentials have been "too routine to remember".

But the two Naga leaders, separated from each other by "four days' journey" in Myanmar's Sagaing division, are unlikely to forget a special Sunday - April 24 - that brought them together and hundreds of other tribespeople for an event titled 'Nagas Without Borders' organised by the Zingtun Tangkhul Katamnao Long (ZTKL), a Tangkhul Naga students' body, on its 75th anniversary at Talui in Ukhrul district.

About 105 km northeast of State capital Imphal, Talui is an iconic Naga village dominated by the Tangkhuls. It is the birthplace of Mazachang Raikhan, a railway officer who founded the ZTKL in 1947.

"We harbour the hope that we will be together one day, that the artificial borders cannot keep us separated. We, the Nagas living in Myanmar, are still in darkness, underdeveloped and living in sheer hopelessness. Nagas living within the Indian administrative areas are more privileged," Mr Chonglymn, the president of the Eastern Naga Students' Association (ENSA), told an emotional gathering at the Talui football ground.

Colour and pomp: A Tangkhul Naga folk dance during the programme. • RAHUL KARMAKAR

Mr. Chonglymn and his associates travelled miles mostly on dirt tracks to reach Talui. Many others, including members of cultural troupes, could not cross over to India due to security reasons although India and Myanmar have a free movement agreement for border residents.

Rego Shonsei, the adviser to ENSA from Chamkock village across the border, said the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021 has compounded the problems of the Nagas there.

India suspends tourist visas for Chinese: IATA

Indian students yet to regain entry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India has suspended tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals, the global airlines body IATA told its member carriers on April 20.

India has been raising with China the plight of over 22,000 of its students enrolled in Chinese universities who are unable to go back for physical classes. However, the neighbouring country has till date refused to let them enter.

These students had to leave their studies in China and come to India when the COVID-19 pandemic started in the beginning of 2020.

In a circular issued on April 20 regarding India, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said, "Tourist visas issued to nationals of China (People's Republic) are no longer valid."

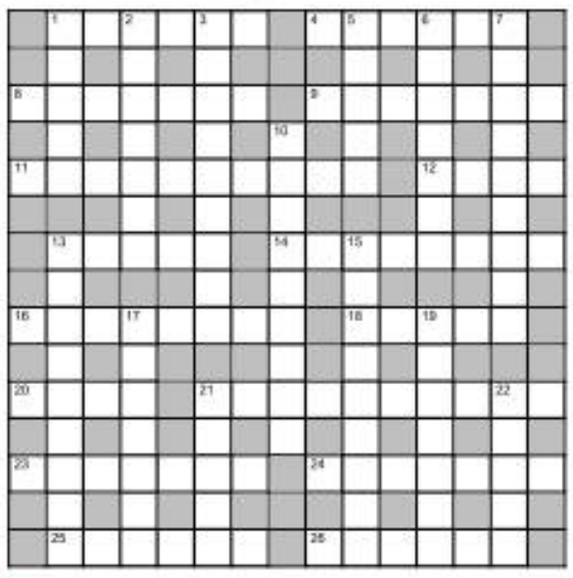
The IATA also said that tourist visas with a validity of 10 years are no longer valid. The IATA is a global airlines body of around 290 members that comprise over 80% of global air traffic.

THE CROSSWORD + 13539

(set by Vulcan)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Thrilling and highly gripping film (6)
4 Infrequent shocks reported (6)
8 Arsenal players – good athletes needing no introduction (7)
9 Clubs' guarantee drawing criticism (7)
11 Met guy, in awe, at her mansion (10)
12 Excellent article about Old English (1-3)
13 Get painter's source of oil (5)
14 A way of expressing a point – universal for all basically (8)
16 It's a term perhaps for abuse (8)
18 A means of directing commands, say (5)
20 Separate piece (4)
21 Designed to reflect (10)
23 Work backward to bury evidence (7)
24 Pavement and a wall next to westbound river (7)
25 This resort town's temperature is most pleasant (6)
26 Guy taking time to provide chinaware (3,3)

DOWN

1 Evaluate university in good time (5)
2 Continuously running between poles at first (7)
3 Chose rare sort of a contest (5,4)
5 Basically chic, thin and neat (5)
6 Pick up paintings after break (7)
7 Wrong user or one mistaken (9)
10 Nothing big comes of this exchange (5,4)
13 With Canon made a movie (9)
15 Think new, be the first to reinvent/create (9)
17 It ain't Cameron's first lousy movie (7)
19 Advances into Greek Island, say (7)
21 Clothing label needing no advertisement (5)
22 Mostly liking nothing in brown (5)

SUDOKU

	2							
		9	8			4		2
	6		4			1	7	
7			3	6				
4								7
				7	2			5
	5	7			8		3	
9		8			7	5		
							1	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13538

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	2	9	3	4	1	8	5
1	3	8	6	7	5	2	9	4
9	5	4	8	1	2	3	6	7
8	2	3	7	4	6	9	5	1
7	4	9	5	2	1	8	3	6
5	6	1	3	8	9	7	4	2
2	9	7	4	5	3	6	1	8
3	1	5	2	6	8	4	7	9
4	8	6	1	9	7	5	2	3

FAITH

Illustrious lineage

Kooratazhvan was one of the foremost disciples of Ramanujacharya.

Kooratazhvan and his wife Andal lived a simple life in Srirangam, said Thentirupperai Arvaindalochanan, in a discourse. Every day, Kooratazhvan would eat only after he had obtained *biksha*. One day it rained heavily and Kooratazhvan was unable to go out. It was the time for the food offering for the night at the Srirangam temple. Andal's thoughts went to Ranganatha, and she wondered how He could eat, when His devotee was going to go to bed on an empty stomach.

The Lord then told the priests to take the prasada to Kooratazhvan. When they arrived at his residence, he asked the priests why they had brought him the prasada. They said it was the Lord's command. Kooratazhvan asked Andal if she had anything to do with what was happening. She confessed that her thoughts had been about Ranganatha consuming food, while her husband did not. Kooratazhvan told her that she must never entertain such thoughts. He took two small portions of the prasada, and gave them to Andal. She was then blessed with two sons, both great scholars.

One of them was Parasara Bhatta. Ramanuja came to Kooratazhvan's house to name the child, and sent in his disciple Embar to bring the baby. Embar said that to ward off evil eyes, he had recited the *dhvaya* mantra while bringing the child. Ramanuja felt that since Embar had shown such concern for the child, he should be Parasara Bhatta's acharya.

Thus Parasara Bhatta not only came from an illustrious lineage, but was also blessed to be named by Ramanuja and had yet another scholar, Embar, as his acharya.

ASK US

VIDYA BALA

Q. I am 23. I earn ₹25,000 per month and I pay around ₹18,000 towards my education loan amount of ₹1,85,000 at an interest of 8.5%. Please let me know how to maximise the value of the amount I spend. I also request guidance on investing in debt funds.

BHARATH KUMAR

A. We are not quite sure what you mean by maximising the value of the amount you spend. So we have to skip that. Since you have to finish repaying your education loan, you can use only the balance to invest in mutual funds. Consider ultra-short and short-duration funds to begin with as they will be less volatile. Later, once your loan is is fully repaid, see if you can handle some risk with equity index funds.

Q. I am employed in a private IT firm. I used the group health insurance offered by them for making a claim for my father who is hospitalised. Since I used the insurance amount, am I legally bound to stay with the firm as I am planning to quit soon?

EMAL JOHNY

Nitya Kalyani answers: No. Making a claim on an employer's group insurance policy does not oblige you to continue with the employer. You have already paid your dues for this benefit by way of premium for the coverage which could have either been directly or partially paid by you or opaque to you, being part of your remuneration package.

Good luck on your future career plans. If you are joining a new place of employment and will be joining the group insurance scheme there, you should get a letter from your old employer detailing the length of coverage and the claims made so that you get good terms on the new policy.

If you are going to start a venture on your own or are breaking from work in order to study, then getting an independent hospitalisation policy for yourself and your family members becomes more important. The letter from your old employer regarding your health insurance track record will come in handy here as well. In either case, do try to move from one scheme to the other without a break so that you have the advantage of unbroken coverage.

Q. For a query related to health insurance coverage, you had suggested to supplement our coverage at some point with a top-up policy.
I request you to clarify the following:
a. A super top-up policy can be taken only if one takes a base policy. It is observed that the premium payable for a super top-up policy is far less than the base policy's. Why is it so?
b. Is there any difference with regard to claim settlements between the base policy and the super top-up policy?
For example, suppose one has a base policy for ₹3 lakh and a super top-up policy for ₹4 lakh. The super top-up policy triggers after exhausting the claim limit under the base policy. If a claim is made for a sum of ₹6 lakh, ₹3 lakh is settled from the base policy and the balance with the super top-up policy. In settling the claim, is the yardstick followed by health insurers in processing the claim the same? As I am a retired bank officer, this is the time for me to decide on health insurance.

K.N. MOHANAN

A. It is great to see this level of due diligence and interest in information about insurance and it points to an increasing awareness about both insurance and the imperatives of healthcare costs.

Why is a top-up policy cheaper per rupee of coverage compared to a basic hospitalisation policy? Taking your own illustration, a hospitalisation is more likely to use up a base policy sum assured of ₹3 lakh and making that claim is a certainty. That sum assured (SA) will be the 'threshold' (also called 'excess' or 'deductible') and expenses over and above this are less likely and will become payable only after the base policy SA is exhausted by way of claim. The likelihood of that larger claim amount determines the premium rate, among other things.

You have to also check the nature of the top-up policy. Some specify the threshold per hospitalisation (or per event or per claim as they term it) and others specify the threshold per policy year. There are policies that combine the two scenarios as well. The names of the policies also vary from top-up to super top-up and the usage is not standard across companies.

With regard to your second question as to how the claims are settled, the principles are the same. They will be settled within the policy framework and against actual expenses, read bills and other documentation, except where cash benefits like hospital cash or disability benefits are part of the policy. The top-up policy will make a claim payment after verifying that the deductible has been exhausted thus triggering the top-up policy.

As per your example, if you have expenses that need to be claimed under both policies, you can make the basic policy claim with proper support and claim the rest from the top-up with the bills and documents for the additional amount referring to the basic policy and its claim documents for supporting it. Or you can make both claims simultaneously, simpler if you have both the policies with the same insurer.

If you are able to avail cashless service, these processes are easier as the third-party administrator will deal with the formalities.

(Vidya Bala is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in Nitya Kalyani is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Picking the right motor cover

Avoid purchasing insurance from car dealers as it is usually bundled as part of the deal, and may have very little to offer

ASHWINI DUBEY

Car owners' relationship with their vehicle often bears a stark contrast with the one they have with their motor insurance.

Overwhelmed with excitement in purchasing a new car, most buyers do not spare a thought for insurance.

From the time one decides to own a car till the time of taking delivery, most of the research and effort goes into the specifications of the vehicle. Motor insurance, on the other hand, is treated as an 'incidental purchase'.

The insurance often comes bundled as part of the deal handed over by the dealer.

If you live in an area where your car will not have much exposure to water, or if you can protect your engine, you can choose not to buy the engine protection cover

After all, who wants to think about damage at the time of purchase? However, much to the chagrin of car owners, accidents on Indian roads are as real as they get - 4.5 lakh road crashes per year, to be precise. With such an alarming figure, insurance goes beyond being a mere mandate to escape a hefty fine, and instead, becomes the shield that protects you and your prized possession. Therefore, it's crucial to give motor insurance purchase its equitable share of research. If you are a potential car buyer looking for an insurance policy, you shouldn't rush into grabbing whatever policy your dealer hands you.

Limited options

Models, features, accessories and what not? Buyers can't get enough of researching unlimited options for each of these before they can zero in on their dream car. Why not do the same when buying a protective shield for it? Car dealers are not the primary dealers of insurance. They usually have a tie-up with a limited number of insurers and earn profit on the sale of insurance. For many insurers, car dealers act as the best point of sale to convert a customer. But before taking it up, do ask yourself if this is the best you can do to protect your vehicle in the event of an unfortunate accident? There's a high possibility of following a cookie-cutter approach in designing these insurance policies with similar benefits for every buyer. It's always advisable to opt for the policy that suits your needs best and not a pre-approved approach.

Pricier deal

A bundled car insurance deal might come with certain additional features or add-ons in the policy. The dealer acts as the best medium to present these features to the customer. While sometimes useful, quite often not all features are useful for the buyer, but he or she ends up buying the policy anyway. This later results in costlier premiums. Also, every add-on comes at a price. It's the customer who might end up paying as much as 40% more in the dealer-insurer arrangement. So, do not rush into buying something that you might regret later.

For instance, if you live in an area where you think that your car will not have much exposure to water or you can go the extra mile to protect your engine carefully, you can choose not to buy the engine protection cover.

On the other hand, customers might also be tricked into paying costlier premiums for a deal that may or may not include adequate add-on covers.

There's a possibility that the buyer might need covers like roadside assistance, zero depreciation or personal accident cover, but might not be aware of them at the time of purchase. In this case, they will have to opt for such add-ons later which might be a costlier deal for them. So, do not rush into buying something you might repent later.

Losing online benefits

Technology is the foundation of the modern world, and everything you need is available at your fingertips. While insurance is still perceived as a distribution-controlled product sold via the feet-on-street model, you can just as easily buy insurance online as you buy anything else. Since the digital medium eliminates the need for any manual intervention, the cost reduction reflects in policy pricing as well. This is just one key benefit among many others of buying motor insurance online.

You can trawl through countless options and customise your features as per your needs. You can also get credible reviews from other policyholders and choose the best option. Given that we are still in the midst of a pandemic, you can get the end-to-end purchase done online safely from your home. Buying online is a lot more convenient too. If you need any assistance, you can talk to the insurer or aggregator via audio or video calls. You can easily compare important aspects of a policy like the claim settlement ratio or Insured Declared Value (IDV).

Buying one's coveted car is a moment of significant importance for the owner, not just financially but also emotionally. However, it is equally important to not let this excitement get the better of you or land you in a subpar insurance deal.

(The author is Head-Motor Insurance Renewals, Policybazaar.com)

THINK INVESTOR: SPEND CONTROL

Passionate about passion assets?

Your urge to acquire such assets continues as you keep spending on them; excessive spending should be moderated

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

'Passion assets' refer to investments in collectibles such as art, paintings and antiques. An issue some individuals face is excessive spending on passion assets. In this article, we shall discuss what drives one to excessive spending on these assets and how to moderate it.

Asset tolerance

Collecting passion assets is a rewarding experience. But as time goes by and you amass a large collection, it is likely that you develop tolerance for passion assets. That is, you stop deriving the same level of pleasure even if you are collecting just as many assets as you did in the previous year. That means you must spend more to gain the same rewarding experience. Why?

Neuroscience can explain this behaviour. Your brain releases a neurotransmitter called dopamine when you have pleasurable experiences.

When you continually spend on passion assets, your brain's reward centre is overstimulated. This means your brain initially becomes overwhelmed and releases high levels of dopamine. Eventually, the brain controls this issue by decreasing the dopamine production or by reducing the dopamine receptors.

This translates to another issue: buying passion assets will now trigger a weaker response from your brain's reward centre. But your urge to acquire passion assets continues. So, you buy more to get the same level of experience as before.

How do you 'know' that you are overspending? For one, you may be paying more than you normally would to buy an asset.

For instance, you may be overbidding at an auction, or you may have a compulsive urge to buy an otherwise substandard asset. For another, your spouse, sibling, or parents may start to believe that you have an addiction! So, how should you moderate this excess spending behaviour?

Balancing wealth: You should also maintain a separate bank account to buy passion assets and fund this account with a pre-determined amount every month • GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCK

Coherent spending

It is highly unlikely that your immediate family would have developed tolerance for the same passion assets as you have. So, an optimal strategy would be to consult with your spouse, parents, or sibling before you spend on such assets. Agreed, this may not be always easy, given that your urge to spend on a passion asset may be impulsive.

The second way of moderating excessive spending is to engage in other leisure activities that can be rewarding. You are likely to spend often on passion assets when you are bored or not gainfully engaged in any activity.

Suppose you find gardening somewhat rewarding. Then, allocating more of your leisure to gardening than analysing what passion assets to buy next could moderate excessive spending. You should also maintain a separate bank account to buy passion assets. You can fund this bank account with a predetermined amount every month, thus restricting the amount you can spend on such assets.

Finally, you could replace your passion assets on a continual basis. Just as you buy shares with proceeds from selling another investment, you could buy a passion asset with proceeds from selling one or more assets from your existing collection.

True, parting with passion assets could be painful, as they are touch-and-feel assets.

Often, such pain prompts us to demand more money for selling an asset that we own – a bias that behavioural psychologists call as endowment effect. But endowment effect typically fades the longer you hold an asset.

Conclusion

You can determine the amount you want to spend on passion assets as a percentage of your total investments or after arriving at an absolute amount in consultation with your spouse, sibling or parents.

Note that your excessive spending could be simply a fallout of the pandemic. It is a fact that with limited scope for leisure activity, many have turned their attention to buying passion assets. Perhaps, as we adjust to this virus and as the world limps back to pre-pandemic activity, your brain's reward centre may revert to regular spending habits. If you continue to suffer from excessive spending, you must moderate the issue.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Highest Slab	Interest Rates (%) 1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6.90	6.50	6.75	6.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.50	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.75	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.10	6.50	6.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.00	6.25	6.75
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.50	5.75	5.25
AU Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.25	6.75	6.75
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.30	6.00	6.00	6.00
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
DCB Bank	6.25	5.55	6.25	6.25
RBL Bank	6.50	6.25	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	7.35	7.15	7.35	6.00
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.50
Nainital Bank	5.35	5.10	5.35	5.35
IDFC First Bank	6.25	5.75	6.00	6.25
Karur Vysya Bank	5.80	5.40	5.65	5.80
CSB Bank	5.50	5.00	5.25	5.25
Axis Bank	5.75	5.10	5.40	5.75
South Indian Bank	5.65	4.90	5.50	5.65
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.35	5.25	5.00	5.00
Karnataka Bank	5.50	5.10	5.40	5.40
Dhanlaxmi Bank	5.50	5.15	5.30	5.40
Bandhan Bank	6.25	5.25	6.25	5.60
HDFC Bank	5.60	5.10	5.20	5.45
ICICI Bank	5.60	5.00	5.20	5.45
DBS Bank	5.75	5.00	5.65	5.75
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.30	5.10	5.30	5.30
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Union Bank of India	5.50	5.00	5.30	5.40
Canara Bank	5.50	5.10	5.45	5.50
State Bank of India	5.50	5.10	5.45	5.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.30	5.05	5.30	5.30
Indian Bank	5.25	5.00	5.20	5.25
Bank of Baroda	5.35	5.00	5.20	5.35
Punjab National Bank	5.25	5.00	5.10	5.25
Indian Overseas Bank	5.45	5.15	5.45	5.45
Bank of India	5.05	5.00	5.05	5.05
Bank of Maharashtra	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
FOREIGN BANKS				
Deutsche Bank	6.50	4.50	5.35	6.50
HSBC Bank	4.00	3.10	4.00	4.00
Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(in %)
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	6.65-7.65	6.65-7.65	6.65-7.65
Bank of Baroda	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.50
Union Bank of India	6.60-7.60	6.60-7.65	6.60-7.65
Punjab National Bank	6.55-7.95	6.50-7.65	6.50-7.60
Bank of India	6.50-8.35	6.50-8.35	6.50-8.35
Canara Bank	6.65-11.45	6.65-11.45	6.65-11.45
UCO Bank	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.40-8.30	6.40-8.45	6.40-8.55
Punjab and Sind Bank	6.50-7.60	6.50-7.60	6.50-7.60
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05-7.40	7.15-7.40	7.30-7.40
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=6.60	>=6.60	>=6.60
ICICI Bank	6.70-7.55	6.70-7.55	6.70-7.55
Axis Bank	6.75-11.50	6.75-11.50	6.75-11.50
HSBC Bank	6.45-7.05	6.45-7.05	6.45-7.05
South Indian Bank	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.10
Karur Vysya Bank	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
Karnataka Bank	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.85
Federal Bank	7.65-7.70	7.70-7.75	7.75-7.80
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25
Bandhan Bank	6.40-13.50	6.40-11.75	6.40-11.75
RBL Bank	9.40-11.10	7.80-8.20	7.80-8.10
CSB Bank	8.30	8.30	8.63
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
LIC Housing Finance	6.70-7.85	6.70-8.05	6.70-8.05
HDFC Ltd.	6.70-8.45	6.70-8.60	6.70-8.70
Bajaj Housing Finance	6.65 onwards	6.65 onwards	6.65 onwards
Tata Capital	>=6.85	>=6.85	>=6.85
PNB Housing Finance	6.75-12.00	6.75-12.00	6.90-9.75
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.24	>=7.24	>=7.24
Repco Home Finance	>=7.15	>=7.15	>=7.15
Indiabulls Housing	>=7.60	>=7.60	>=7.60
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	6.59-9.99	6.59-9.99	6.59-9.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on February 21 — Source: Paisabazaar.com

Macron projected to win second term

Early projections show incumbent President winning 57-58% of the vote against Le Pen's 41-43%

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday defeated his rival Marine Le Pen in presidential elections, projections showed, prompting a wave of relief in Europe that the far-right had been prevented from taking power.

Centrist Mr. Macron was set to win 57-58.5% of the vote compared with Ms. Le Pen on 41.5-43%, according to projections by polling firms for French television channels based on a sample of the vote count.

The result is narrower than the second-round clash in 2017, when the same two candidates met in the runoff and Mr. Macron polled over 66% of the vote.

The outcome, expected to be confirmed by official results overnight, caused immense relief in Europe after fears a Le Pen presidency would leave the continent rudderless following Brexit and the departure of German chancellor Angela Merkel.

In jubilation: Supporters of incumbent President Emmanuel Macron at the Champ de Mars in Paris on Sunday. • AFP

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi called Mr. Macron's victory "great news for all of Europe".

European Union President Charles Michel said the bloc can now "count on France for five more years" while commission chief Ursula von der Leyen rapidly congratulated him saying she was "delighted to be able to continue our excellent cooperation".

Le Pen concedes defeat

In a speech to supporters in Paris where she accepted the result but showed no sign of quitting politics, Ms. Le Pen, 53, said she would "never abandon" the French and was already preparing for June legislative elections.

"The result represents a brilliant victory," she said to cheers.

The relatively comfortable margin of victory gives Mr. Macron some confidence as he heads into a second five-year mandate, but the election also represents the closest the far-right has ever come to winning power in France.

Mr. Macron is the first French President to win re-election since Jacques Chirac in 2002 after his predecessors Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande left office after only one term.

The 44-year-old is to make a victory speech on the Champ de Mars in central Paris at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, where flag-waving supporters erupted in joy when the projections appeared at 8:00 p.m. local time (1800 GMT).

Mr. Macron will be hoping for a less complicated second term that will allow him to implement his vision of more pro-business reform and tighter EU integration after a first term shadowed by protests, then the pandemic and finally Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But he will have to win over those who backed his opponents and the millions of French who did not bother to vote.

On the basis of the official figures, polling organisations estimated that the abstention rate was on course for 2% which, if confirmed, would be the highest in any presidential election second-round run-off since 1969.

Mr. Macron will also need to ensure his party finds strong grassroots support to keep control of a parliamentary majority in the legislative elections in June.

Zelensky presses for more arms ahead of Blinken meet

Russian forces concentrate their attacks on eastern Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky pressed the West for more powerful weapons as he prepared to meet with top U.S. officials in Kyiv on Sunday, while Russian forces concentrated their attacks on the east, including trying to dislodge the last Ukrainian troops in the battered port of Mariupol.

Mr. Zelensky announced the planned visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a news conference on Saturday night in a Kyiv subway station. The White House has not commented.

Mr. Zelensky said he was looking for the Americans to produce results, both in arms and security guarantees. "You can't come to us empty-handed today, and we are expecting not just presents or some kind of cakes, we are expecting specific things and specific weapons," he said.

Volodymyr Zelensky

While the West has funneled military equipment to Ukraine, Mr. Zelensky has stressed repeatedly that the country needs more heavy weapons, including long-range air defence systems, as well as warplanes.

His meeting with Mr. Austin and Mr. Blinken was set to take place as Ukrainians and Russians observed Orthodox Easter, when the faithful celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Most of Sunday's fighting focused on the Donbas region in the east, where Ukrainian forces are concentrated and where Moscow-backed separatists controlled some territory before the war.

Russian forces launched fresh airstrikes on a Mariupol steel plant where an estimated 1,000 civilians are sheltering along with about 2,000 Ukrainian fighters.

The Azovstal steel mill where the defenders are holed up is the last corner of resistance in the city, which the Russians have otherwise occupied.

10 confirmed dead after Japan tour boat sinks

16 of the 26 on board are still missing

REUTERS
TOKYO

Ten people found so far from a Japanese tour boat missing off the country's northern coast have been confirmed dead, the coast guard said on Sunday.

The boat went missing on Saturday with 26 people on board during a cruise off the main northern island of Hokkaido. Of the 10, seven were men and three were women, the Coast Guard said in a bulletin. Sixteen others are still missing.

There were 24 passengers, including two children, and two crew members on board.

Drift ice can be seen in area waters as late as March, and water temperatures now would be 2 to 3 degrees Celsius, said an official at a local fishery cooperative.

"Just a few minutes in that sort of water would start clouding your consciousness," he said.

Authorities were using aircraft and patrol boats, including seven ships, three airplanes and four helicopters from the coast guard, to search for the passengers and crew of the "Kazu I" after it ran into trouble off Shiretoko peninsula, famous for its wildlife and dramatic coastline.

Shanghai on edge as COVID death toll up

The city logs its highest count with 39 deaths; Beijing warned of 'grim' situation

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Shanghai reported 39 COVID-19 deaths on Sunday, its highest daily toll despite weeks of lockdowns, while China's capital Beijing warned of a "grim" situation with rising infections.

The world's second-largest economy has been struggling to stamp out its worst outbreak in two years with a playbook of harsh lockdowns and mass testing as it sticks to a strict zero-COVID policy, taking a heavy toll on businesses and public morale.

The business hub has been almost entirely locked down since the start of the month, snarling supply chains, with many residents confined to their homes.

Testing times: A child getting a COVID-19 test at a mobile facility in Beijing on Sunday. • AP

It reported 39 more deaths on Sunday, National Health Commission data showed, bringing its total toll to 87, while the country logged nearly 22,000 new local virus cases.

Censors have battled to scrub an online backlash against the prolonged lockdown in the city of 25 million people, including the rapid censorship of a viral video by residents outlining their daily challenges to eat and access essential services.

Health officials have warned of risks to the older and largely unvaccinated population. Five of those who died had been vaccinated. This has further raised questions over the efficacy of China-made vaccines.

Meanwhile, 22 more infections were reported in Beijing on Sunday, with the capital locking down one housing compound as officials warned the situation was "grim and complex".

At least 80 killed in blast at Nigerian oil refinery

The facility was 'illegally operated'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAGOS

An explosion at an illegal oil refinery in southern Nigeria has killed at least 80 people, the emergency services said on Sunday.

The blast occurred late Friday at the illegal site between the southern oil states of Rivers and Imo, police said. "We recovered at least 80 badly burnt bodies at the scene," Ifeanyi Nnaji of the National Emergency Management Agency in the area, said, adding that the toll could rise.

"We learnt many bodies are in nearby bushes and forests as some illegal operators and their patrons scampered to safety."

Many people had "severe burns", he said, adding some later died in hospital.Idris Musa, head of the of state-run National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency said an investigation was under way.

Local media said more than 100 people, mostly youths, were burnt to death.

Pipeline fires are commonplace in Nigeria, in part because of poor maintenance but also because of thieves who vandalise pipelines to siphon off petrol and sell it on the black market.

SPORT

IN BRIEF

Celtics push Nets to the brink in NBA playoffs

NEW YORK

Jayson Tatum scored 39 points to lead Boston Celtics in a 109-103 win over Brooklyn Nets that pushed its lead in the NBA Eastern Conference playoff series to 3-0.

The results: EC: Toronto 110 bt Philadelphia 102 (Philadelphia leads 3-1); Brooklyn 103 lost to Boston 109 (Boston leads 3-0); **WC:** Utah 100 bt Dallas 99 (series 2-2); Minnesota 119 bt Memphis 118 (series 2-2). AFP

Divij-Goncalo duo loses in final

AGUASCALIENTES (MEXICO)

Divij Sharan and Goncalo Oliveira lost 7-5, 6-3 to top seeds Nicolas Barrientos and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela in the $53,120 Challenger tennis doubles final.

Other results: $25,000 ITF men, Nottingham: Doubles: Final: Julian Cash & Henry Patten (GBR) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-1, 6-4.

Tarundeep, Ridhi win mixed recurve gold

ANTALYA (TURKEY)

The Indian duo of Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi edged out Great Britain's Alex Wise and Bryony Pitman 18017 in a shoot-off to win the recurve mixed team gold medal in the archery World Cup Stage-1 on Sunday.

Fury retains WBC heavyweight crown

LONDON

Tyson Fury stopped British rival Dillian Whyte in the sixth round to retain his WBC heavyweight crown on Saturday. AFP

SSB downs Mata Rukmani

BHUBANESHWAR

Naorem Sumila Chanu struck a second-half hat-trick as SSB Women's FC returned to winning ways with an emphatic 7-1 victory over Mata Rukmani FC in the Indian Women's League here on Sunday.

The results: SSB Women's FC 7 bt Mata Rukmani 1; ARA 3 bt Odisha Police 1; Sethu FC 3 bt Indian Arrows 0.

Komal claims 45kg weightlifting gold

Maddineni Mahesh emerges men's 10m air rifle individual champion

KHELO VARSITIES

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Komal Kohar of Maharshi Dayanand University won the women's 45kg weightlifting gold medal in the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) here on Sunday. Komal, a gold medallist at the Khelo India Youth Games 2020, set a new KIUG record with a combined lift of 160kg (snatch 70kg, clean and jerk 90kg).

In shooting, Maddineni Mahesh of KL University defeated Paarth Makhija of Delhi University 16-10 in the final to emerge as the men's 10m air rifle individual champion. Makhija made amends in the team event to win gold as part of the Delhi University team, alongside Shivansh Saini and Samarvir.

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu interacts with Vimal Kumar, Ashwini Nachappa, Reeth Abraham and others at the KIUG opening ceremony on Sunday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

The results: Weightlifting (winners): Men: 55kg class: Vijay Maheshwari (Pandit Ravishankar Shukla) Snatch 100kg, Clean and Jerk 130kg, 230kg.

61kg: Mahajan Govinda Sunil (Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra) 112kg, 140kg, 252kg

Women: 45kg: Komal Kohar (Maharshi Dayanand) Snatch 70kg, Clean and Jerk 90kg, combined 160kg. **49kg:** Sneha Soren (KIIT) 69kg, 92kg, 161kg.

55kg: Ranmale Sakshi Mahesh (Shivaji) 73kg, 93kg, 166kg

Shooting: Men: 10m Air rifle individual (final): Maddineni Mahesh (KL) 16 bt Paarth Makhija (Delhi) 10.

10m Air rifle team (winner): Delhi (Shivansh Saini 618.3, Samarvir 628.4 and Paarth Makhija 628.6) 1875.3 points.

Volleyball: Group stage: Men: MG bt Mangalore 25-27, 25-16, 25-20, 26-24; Calicut bt Guru Nanak Dev 25-20, 25-19, 31-29; SRM bt Adamas 25-18, 25-17, 25-19. **Women:** Bharathiar bt Punjabi 25-27, 25-18, 25-17, 25-16; SRM bt Mysore 16-25, 26-24, 25-11, 25-23.

Basketball: Group stage: Men: Jain bt Mumbai 77-48; Jamia Islamia University bt LNIPE 80-69. **Women:** Kurukshetra University bt Punjab University 59-48.

Football: Group stage: Women: Annamalai University 4 (M. Saritha 2, P. Santhiya, R. Miruthika-og) bt Bharathidasan University 0; Vidyasagar University 0 drew with Madurai Kamaraj University 0.

Badminton: Women's team: Jain University bt Calcutta 3-0 (Raghu Mariswamy bt Subhodeep Mondal 21-10, 21-13; M. Rohith bt Aditya Mondal 21-13, 19-21, 23-21; Raghu Mariswamy and Sai Pratheek bt Aditya Mondal and Suraj Chakraborty 21-16, 21-12).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Karnataka women lose

Delhi registered a comfortable six-wicket win over Karnataka in the BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy at Rajkot on Sunday.

The scores:

Karnataka 57 in 17.4 overs (C. Prathyusha 27, Soni Yadav 3/7, Riti Tomar 3/8) lost to Delhi 60/4 in 15.1 overs (Priya Punia 26 n.o.).

Karnataka joint-third

Karnataka women's team finished joint-third (bronze medal) with Uttar Pradesh in the Federation Cup Netball Championship held in Bhiwani, Haryana.

Aryan scores hat-trick in Wanderers' win

Aryan Germain scored a first-half hat-trick as Bangalore Wanderers FC thrashed Bangalore Yellows FC 7-0 in the BDFA C-division football league on Sunday.

The results: Thamarai Kannan 2 (Chetan 15, Rahul 18) bt Pillana Garden 1 (J. Prem 23); Bangalore Wanderers 7 (Ranjith Kumar 9, Aryan Germain 16, 24, 27, Aayush Verghese 19, Ganesh 28, A. Sunilkumar 58) bt Bangalore Yellows 0; Tornadoes 4 (Aaron 3, Sarath 15, Naveen 38, 45) bt LRDE 0; JP Sports 1 (Immanuel 19) bt La Masia 0.

Kodagu Colts eases past Footlongs

Rakshith scored a brace as Kodagu Colts FC eased past Footlongs FC 3-0 in the KSFA C-division league on Sunday.

The results:

Kodagu Colts 3 (Rakshith 52, 54, Md. Irshad 60) bt FootLongs 0; Mysore Vijayanagara 0 drew with Don Bosco 0.

Panthers in final

Black Panthers pipped BCFC 4-3 on penalties (1-1 after regulation time) to enter the final of the KSFA Youth Premier League, on Sunday. In the summit clash, it will take on BFC Academy, which beat Kickstart Academy 4-0.

The results (U-10, semifinals): BFC Academy 4 (Veda Janvrin 5, Mano Janvrin 8, Aditya Vardhan 30, Jordan Mobin Paul 40) bt Kickstart Academy 0; Black Panthers 1 (Ritvik 29) bt BCFC 1 (Advik Das 36) [4-3 on penalties].

Tejas, Murari are winners

Tejas won five out of five and Murari won four out of four to emerge the under-16 and under-10 winners respectively at the Champions Chess Academy Challenge held here.

Bengal enters semifinals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MALAPPURAM

West Bengal overcame an indifferent start to blank Rajasthan 3-0 and entered the semifinals of the Santosh Trophy National Football Championship at the Kottappadi Football stadium here on Sunday.

Bengal's win rendered the Punjab-Meghalaya tie in the evening as inconsequential. However, Punjab ended its campaign with a solitary goal win over Megahalaya.

Fardin Ali Molla (46, 60) and Sujit Singh (80) scored the goals for Bengal which finished second behind Kerala in Group A.

The result: West Bengal 3 (Fardin Ali Molla 46, 60, Sujit Singh 80) bt Rajasthan 0; Punjab 1 (Amarpreet Singh 46) bt Meghalaya 0.

Today's matches: Odisha vs Services (Malappuram) 4.p.m., Karnataka vs Gujarat (Manjeri) 8 p.m.

Gukesh triumphs again

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

In irrepressible form, 15-year-old D. Gukesh won his second title in eight days by beating a strong field in Group A of the Menorca Open chess tournament in Menorca, Spain, on Sunday.

The winner of the La Roda Open last Sunday, Gukesh scored a title-clinching victory over compatriot B. Adhiban in 53 moves to finish with six points from seven rounds.

Gukesh earned 13 rating points and raised his live rating to around 2660.

Aryan Chopra, one of the seven overnight leaders, drew with fourth-seeded Armenian Shant Sargsyan to finish runner-up following a seven-way tie at 5.5 points.

S. P. Sethuraman (fifth), Raunak Sadhwani (seventh) and Nihal Sarin (eighth) also tallied 5.5 points. Top seed Arjun Erigaisi and sixth seed Adhiban (5 each) finished ninth and 10th.

Praggs takes sole lead

R. Praggnanandhaa won with a round to spare and emerged as the leader with six points before Magnus Carlsen suffered a shock defeat in the second round of the Oslo Esports Cup online rapid chess on Saturday.

The results (second round):

R. Praggnanandhaa bt Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) 2.5-1.5; Magnus Carlsen (Nor) lost to Liem Quang Le (Vie) 1.5-2.5; Eric Hansen (Can) lost to Jorden van Foreest (Ned) 1.5-2.5; Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol) bt Anish Giri 4-2 (Duda won the two-game blitz tiebreak 2-0).

Deepak clinches silver

SPORTS BUREAU

Deepak Punia (86kg) got a silver medal, while Viky (92kg) took a bronze in the Asian wrestling championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Sunday.

Important results: 61kg: Mangal Kadyan lost to Ulukbek Zholdoshbekov (Kzg) 6-4 (Bronze medal match).

86kg: Deepak Punia bt Mohsen Mostafavi (Iri) 6-0 (QF); bt Gwanuk Kim (Kor) 5-0 (SF); lost to Azamat Dauletbekov (Kaz) 6-1 (Final).

92kg: Viky bt Mirlan Chynybekov (Kzg) 4-3 (QF); lost to Orgilokh Dagvadorj (Mgl) 11-0 (SF); bt Ajiniyaz Saparniyazov (Uzb) 5-3 (Bronze match).

Karna Kadur snatches a dramatic victory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Karna Kadur and co-driver Nikhil Pai (Arka Motorsports) survived a titanic battle to win the MRF 45th South India Rally which doubled up as the first round of the Blue Band Sports FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2022 on Sunday. Kadur beat Dean Mascarenhas (co-driver Gagan Karumbaiah) by 4.6 seconds after a see-saw battle.

Provisional classification (After Leg-2): Overall & INRC: 1. Karna Kadur & Nikhil Pai (Arka Motorsports) (01Hr, 44mins, 52.700secs); 2. Dean Mascarenhas & Gagan Karumbaiah (01:44:57.300); 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap (Chettinad Sporting) (01:45:50.600).

INRC-2: 1. Mascarenhas & Karumbaiah (01:44:57.300); 2. Thakur & Kashyap (01:45:50.600); 3. Suhem Kabeer & Jeeva Rathinam (01:46:38.400). **INRC-3:** 1. Jahaan Singh Gill & Suraj Keshava Prasad (SNAP Racing) (01:48:51.500); 2. Kuber Sharma & Kunal Kashyap (01:49:25.200); 3. Daraius Neville Shroff & Arjun Dheerendra (Slideways Industries) (01:50:15.200). **INRC-4:** 1. Prakhyat Shirole & Supreet S (01:55:23.200); 2. Yeshwanth Padala & Bharath SM (01:56:25.100); 3. Rupesh Kholay & Varun Satyanarayan (02:01:45.000). **Junior INRC:** 1. Jahaan Gill & Suraj (01:48:41.500); 2. Arnav Pratap Singh & Arjun SSB (SNAP Racing) (01:50:47.400); Shivani Pruthvi & Deepti Pruthvi (01:54.15.500).

Indian trio bags silver

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian trio of Vivaan Kapoor, Kynan Chenai and Prithviraj Tondaiman won the trap team silver medal behind Croatia in the shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy.

The results:

Trap: Men: 1. Erik Varga (Svk) 31(1) 23 (120); 2. Josip Glasnovic (Cro) 31(0) 25 (119); 3. Adria Martinez Torres (Esp) 21 (19) 118; 4. Matthew John Coward-Holley (GBR) 12 (22) 118; 17. Prithviraj Tondaiman 116; 42. Kynan Chenai 113; 69. Vivaan Kapoor 111. RPO: Manavaditya Rathroe 111.

Team: 1. Croatia 7 (212); 2. India 1 (211); 3. Italy 6 (209); 4. Czech Republic 4 (210).

Women: 1. Kirsty Hegarty (GBR) 31 (20) 113; 2. Augusta Rose Campos-Martyn (Pur) 28 (18)115; 3. Ray Basil (Lbn) 21 (21) 113; 4. Satu Makela-Nummela (Fin) 12 (21) 113; 16. Rajeshwari Kumari 110; 35. Shreyasi Singh 106; 51. Shagun Chowdhary 100.

Team: 1. Australia 7 (200); 2. Italy 1 (199); 3. Spain 5(1) 199; 4. Kazakhstan 5(0) 195; 8. India 178.

Ton-up Rahul steals the show as LSG trumps MI

The skipper ensures the team recovers from a middle-order wobble; Rohit's men slump to eighth consecutive defeat

IPL 2022

S. DINAKAR
MUMBAI

Watching him stroke the ball with the grace and flow of a natural, you would be tempted to call K.L. Rahul, 'The Big Easy.'

But then, is it not the name given to New Orleans for its relaxed lifestyle and soothing jazz music?

Well, Rahul's ethereal batsmanship has ease and style and he makes beautiful music with the sound of the willow meeting the ball.

Skipper Rahul's 62-ball unbeaten 103 was the pivotal effort as Lucknow Super Giants sent Mumbai Indians to its eighth successive defeat, defending 168 and winning by 36 runs in the Tata-IPL clash at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing on a sluggish pitch, Rohit Sharma (39) stroked the ball with confidence – a straight drive off Dushyantha Chameera was a top shot – but he could not kick on, held at short third-man attempting to slog-sweep Krunal Pandya.

Bizarre dismissal

Ishan Kishan fell to a bizarre dismissal, Ravi Bishnoi's delivery bouncing off 'keeper Quinton de Kock's boot from the batter's bottom edge to Jason Holder at slip.

Key performances: Rahul's masterly century was the cornerstone of the Lucknow Super Giants innings. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Dewald Brevis, attempting an upper-cut off the lively Mohsin Khan, was held at third man. And Ayush Badoni's off-spin – he angled the ball across the right-hander – extracted a fatal leading edge from Suryakumar Yadav.

Southpaw Tilak Varma, of terrific bat-speed and sound temperament, essayed some brave strokes, even as Kieron Pollard could not rediscover the hitting range of old. When Tilak was held in the deep for a 27-ball 38 off Holder, there was going to be only one winner.

For LSG, Chameera took pace off the ball and bowled with exemplary control.

Earlier, Rahul delighted with his footwork and poise after his side was inserted. The sphere was gloriously struck straight.

Rahul, all balance and artistry, dissected the field with deft touches on a surface where the ball was not quite coming on to the bat.

This was a night when he shifted weight onto his back-leg and got his body alignment right for some tremendous pull shots including one special blow off Bumrah.

When the pacemen pitched it up, they were cover-driven and whipped. Class was the name of Rahul's game.

His gem glittered in the end.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Quinton de Kock c Rohit b Bumrah 10 *(9b, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 103 *(62b, 12x4, 4x6)*, Manish Pandey c Meredith b Pollard 22 *(22b 1x6)*, Marcus Stoinis c Tilak b Sams 0 *(3b)*, Krunal Pandya c Shokeen b Pollard 1 *(2b)*, Deepak Hooda c Brevis b Meredith 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Ayush Badoni c Pollard b Meredith 14 *(11b, 1x6)*, Jason Holder (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-6): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 168.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (de Kock, 3.6 overs), 2-85 (Manish, 11.5), 3-102 (Stoinis, 12.5), 4-103 (Krunal, 13.1), 5-121 (Hooda, 15.3), 6-168 (Badoni, 19.4).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Sams 4-0-40-1, Shokeen 2-0-11-0, Bumrah 4-0-31-1, Meredith 4-0-40-2, Unadkat 4-0-36-0, Pollard 2-0-8-2.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Ishan Kishan c Holder b Bishnoi 8 *(20b)*, Rohit Sharma c (sub) b Krunal 39 *(31b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Dewald Brevis c Chameera b Mohsin 3 *(5b)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Rahul b Badoni 7 *(7b, 1x4)*, Tilak Verma c Bishnoi b Holder 38 *(27b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Kieron Pollard c Hooda b Krunal 19 *(20b, 1x6)*, Daniel Sams c Bishnoi b Krunal 3 *(7b)*, Jaydev Unadkat run out 1 *(1b)*, Hrithik Shokeen (not out) 0 *(0b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-12): 14; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-49 (Ishan, 7.1), 2-54 (Brevis, 8.3), 3-58 (Rohit, 9.4), 4-67 (Suryakumar, 11.2), 5-124 (Tilak, 17.5), 6-131 (Pollard, 19.1), 7-132 (Unadkat, 19.3), 8-132 (Sams, 19.4).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING

Mohsin 4-0-27-1, Chameera 4-0-14-0, Holder 4-0-36-1, Krunal 4-0-19-3, Bishnoi 3-0-28-1, Badoni 1-0-6-1.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.

Player-of-the-Match: Rahul.

Lucknow Super Giants won by 36 runs.

Innings scan

LSG		MI
43	Dots	52
13	Fours	8
7	Sixes	4
32/1	PP	43/0
8.40	RR	6.60

Next assignment

LSG: Apr. 29 vs. **PBKS**
MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

MI: Apr. 30 vs. **RR**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

Low on confidence, short of runs

Kohli needs to travel to his basics and make his defence solid

S. DINAKAR
MUMBAI

In his pomp, Virat Kohli's cover-drives would scorch the turf. On view would be footwork, timing and placement.

Now Kohli is feeling for deliveries around off. His footwork appears to have deserted him. When self-belief vanishes, so does the authority with the willow. And you discover ways of getting out. Kohli's last four innings in the Tata-IPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore have been 1, 12, 0, 0, the zeros being golden ducks.

And he has not scored a half-century in his last 11 innings across formats. The runs are drying out.

On Saturday, on a seaming Brabourne surface, Sunrisers' nippy left-armer Marco Jansen of two-way movement and bounce found Kohli out as the batter played with hard hands and little footwork.

Kohli needs to get his body balance and alignment right. For that to happen, he has to rediscover his footwork. Once that takes place he will play shots with a still head, and would not be falling away. It's a chain of events.

The struggling Kohli has to re-look his stance. Is he balanced and relaxed as he faces the ball? The distribution of body weight is critical so is the back swing which needs to be straighter. Kohli needs to travel to his basics and make his defence solid. Once that happens, his feet will move again and the strokes will flow.

Agony continues: Kohli was nailed for a golden duck, a second consecutive one, by Sunrisers' Jansen. • PTI

Jansen made the difference: Moody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad coach Tom Moody said Marco Jansen's first over of the match was the turning point in Tata-IPL clash against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Saturday night.

He observed. "It was a superb first over. He took two top wickets [Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli] in the first over and opened the game up for us in the PowerPlay. It was the difference in the game."

Queried about another left-arm seamer, T. Natarajan's return to form, Moody said the paceman was fit this season.

Moody added, "He understands his specific role in the side very clearly. He is one of the best at bowling those tough overs at the back-end of the PowerPlay or the back-end of an innings when they are coming after you and you are under pressure as a bowler. He's got the skill-set to manage that."

Tough Road ahead for CSK, PBKS

S. DINAKAR
MUMBAI

Allowing time at the crease to M.S. Dhoni is like tempting the big cat. You never know when it would leap for the kill.

For CSK, the Tiger has awaken. M.S. Dhoni, at 40, remains the side's biggest match-winner and one of the game's great finishers.

His incredible blitzkrieg against Mumbai Indians has provided CSK with belief and inspiration.

On the prowl

Dhoni will be on the prowl against Punjab Kings in Monday night's Indian Premier League clash at the batter-friendly Wankhede Stadium.

The match is crucial for two teams seeking to find momentum. Punjab Kings has three wins from seven matches and CSK, two.

CSK requires greater consistency from its batters. Crucially, skipper Ravindra Jadeja needs to fire. And big-hitter Shivam Dube's shot selection has to be judicious.

Will CSK field Matheesha Pathirana, the slinger from Sri Lanka, in this duel? He can be slippery.

Driving forces: Much will depend on Dhoni and Livingstone for their respective teams. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Seamer Mukesh Chowdhary has bowled with greater control, all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius has chipped in, Dwayne Bravo's variations have been brilliant and Maheesh Theekshana has contained and struck with his brand of spin.

For Punjab Kings, Liam Livingstone, with his barrage of shots, represents the biggest threat.

Skipper Mayank Agarwal and Shikhar Dhawan can construct monuments while Shahrukh Khan can dismiss attacks.

The fast and skilful Kagiso Rabada and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar can strike telling blows. Swinger Vaibhav Arora and Arshdeep Singh are handy pacemen.

TODAY'S MATCH

PUNJAB KINGS vs. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

WANKHEDE, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 26

PBKS 11 | CSK 15

Previous meeting: PBKS won by 54 runs, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Playoffs in Kolkata, Ahmedabad

ANI
KOLKATA

The Indian Premier League playoff games will be played in Kolkata and Ahmedabad, with capacity crowds for the first time in two years.

According to *ESPNcricinfo*, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said the playoffs would be in Kolkata and Ahmedabad, with Qualifier-1 at the Eden Gardens, followed by the Eliminator on the next day.

The Narendra Modi Stadium will host Qualifier-2 on May 27 and the final on May 29.

Capacity crowds will be allowed in the stadium after a gap of two years. The previous two seasons were played inside empty stadiums or had a limited capacity of spectators due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initially, for the league phase, 25% crowds had been allowed, which was increased to 50% when the pandemic situation became stable.

Verstappen, Thompson voted the best

Italian football squad honoured

LAUREUS AWARDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Dutchman Max Verstappen, the 2021 Formula One World champion, was voted the Sportsman of the Year in the 2022 Laureus World Sports Award during a virtual event from Seville, Spain, late on Sunday.

The honour for the Sportswoman of the Year went to Jamaican athlete Elaine Thompson-Herah. In the Tokyo Olympic Games, she not only retained the 100m and 200m gold medals but also added the 4x100m relay crown.

The awardees:

Sportsman of the Year: Max Verstappen (Motor racing); **Sportswoman of the Year:** Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics); **World Team of the Year:** Italy Men's football team; **Breakthrough of the Year:** Emma Raducanu (Tennis); **Comeback of the Year:** Sky Brown (Skateboarding); **World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability:** Marcel Hug (Wheelchair Athletics); **World Action Sportsperson of the Year:** Bethany Shriever (BMX); **Lifetime Achievement:** Tom Brady (American football); **Academy Exceptional Achievement:** Robert Lewandowski; **Sporting Icon:** Valentino Rossi (Motorcycle Racing); **Sport for Good:** Lost Boyz Inc (Baseball); **Sport for Good (Society):** Real Madrid Foundation; **Athlete Advocate of the Year:** Gerald Asamoah and the Black Eagles (football).

Elaine Thompson-Herah. • GETTY IMAGES

TV PICKS

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 4.30 a.m.
Khelo India Games: DD Sports, 7.30 a.m.; Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9.30 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
UEFA Youth League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9.30 p.m.
Serie A: Vh1, Voot Select & Jio TV, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

Pujara scores a century again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WORCESTER

Cheteshwar Pujara continued his good form in the English County championship with a second successive hundred for Sussex against Worcestershire in an away match but couldn't stop his team from going down by an innings and 34 runs at New Road on Saturday.

Pujara scored 109 off 206 balls, his 52nd First-Class century, following his unbeaten 201 against Derbyshire in his first game of the season.

Ayhika and Mouma continue to delight

K. KEERTHIVASAN
SHILLONG

Ayhika Mukherjee (RBI) and Mouma Das (PSPB), both unseeded, were the standout performers in the singles matches on view in the senior National table tennis championships on Sunday.

After defeating top seed Manika Batra in the pre-quarterfinals, Ayhika overcame PSPB's Moumita Dutta in the last eight clash to set up a semifinal with Akula Sreeja, who was clinical in her win over Swastika Ghosh of Maharashtra-A.

Reeth marches on

Reeth Rishya has been consistent and didn't compromise on attack. Her impressive quarterfinal victory over Takeme Sarkar (RSPB) in straight games and earlier over Sutirtha Mukherjee have made her the favourite for the crown. Reeth will clash with Mouma Das.

There weren't any major upsets in the men's singles, though the top two seeds, Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyan, had to work hard to earn their spots in the semfinals.

The results (quarterfinals): **Men:** Sharath Kamal (PSPB) bt Sourav Saha (Har) 11-7, 6-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-5; Manush Shah (Guj) bt Soumyajit Ghosh (Har) 11-4, 11-9, 11-7, 11-7; Sanil Shetty (PSPB) bt Anirban Ghosh (RSPB) 11-8, 11-5, 11-6, 11-5; G. Sathiyan (PSPB) bt Manav Thakkar (PSPB) 12-10, 9-11, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10, 11-7.

Women: Ayhika Mukherjee (RBI) bt Moumita Dutta (Ben-A) 11-9, 11-4, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9; Akua Sreeja (RBI) bt Swastika Ghosh (Mah-A) 11-4, 13-11, 11-7, 11-9; Reeth Rishya (PSPB) bt Takeme Sarkar (RSPB) 11-5, 11-9, 11-3, 11-6; Mouma Das (PSPB) bt Anusha Kutumbale (MP) 6-11, 11-3, 11-8, 4-11, 11-5, 11-6.

Semifinal line-ups: Men: Sharath vs Manush, Sathiyan vs Sanil; **Women:** Mouma vs Reeth, Sreeja vs Ayhika.

Ayhika. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Verstappen takes the honours

Daruvala has a good weekend in Formula 2

EMILIA ROMAGNA GP

AGENCIES
IMOLA

World champion Max Verstappen took maximum points from Formula One's Imola sprint weekend, leading a dominant Red Bull one-two on Sunday as Ferrari's homecoming turned sour for overall leader Charles Leclerc and his Italian team.

Mexican Sergio Perez finished runner-up in the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, 16.527 seconds behind the Dutch driver, with Lando Norris repeating last year's third place to claim McLaren's first podium of the season.

Championship leader Leclerc, winner of two of the first three races, fought back to sixth place after a late spin while running in third.

Mercedes' seven times World champion Lewis Hamilton, lapped by Verstappen after 41 of the 63 laps, finished 13th.

Meanwhile, India's Jehan Daruvala moved to third in the FIA Formula 2 championship after a strong weekend including a ninth place on Sunday and a second-place finish in Saturday's Sprint Race. It was the 23-year-old's third podium from as many rounds this season and 10th overall in Formula 2.

Verstappen... blazing the track. • GETTY IMAGES

The results: 1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1hr 32:07.986, 2. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) + 16.527, 3. Lando Norris (McLaren) 34.834, 4. George Russell (Mercedes) 42.506, 5. Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo) 43.181, 6. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 56.072, 7. Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) 1:01.110, 8. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) 1:10.892, 9. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 1:15.260; **1 Lap:** 10. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), 11. Alexander Albon (Williams), 12. Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri), 13. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes), 14. Esteban Ocon (Alpinet), 15. Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo), 16. Nicholas Latifi (Williams), 17. Mick Schumacher (Haas), 18. Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren); **DNF:** Carlos Sainz (Ferrari), Fernando Alonso (Alpine).

The standings (top 5): Drivers: 1. Leclerc 86 pts, 2. Verstappen 59, 3. Perez 54, 4. Russell 49, 5. Sainz 38; **Constructors:** 1. Ferrari 124 pts, 2. Red Bull 113, 3. Mercedes 77, 4. McLaren 46, 5. Alfa Romeo 25.

Liverpool stays close

REUTERS
LONDON

Liverpool stuck to Manchester City's coattails with a hard-fought 2-0 win over Everton that further pushed its cross-town rival towards relegation in the Premier League on Sunday. Left-back Andy Robertson and substitute Divock Origi broke through in the second half.

Earlier, Chelsea tightened its grip on third place with a 1-0 win over 10-man West Ham.

Napoli's hopes of winning the Serie A title this season suffered a huge blow as it surrendered a two-goal lead at Empoli in seven stunning second-half minutes to lose 3-2.

The results:

Premier League: Brighton 2 (Welbeck 2, Salisu 44-og) drew with Southampton 2 (Ward-Prowse 45, 54); Burnley 1 (Vydra 62) bt Wolves 0; Chelsea 1 (Pulisic 90) bt West Ham 0; Liverpool 2 (Robertson 62, Origi 85) bt Everton 0.

Serie A: Salernitana 2 (Djuric 9, Bonazzoli 79) bt Fiorentina 1 (Saponara 64); Empoli 3 (Henderson 80, Pinamonti 83, 87) bt Napoli 2 (Mertens 44, Insigne 53).

Ten Hag won't have it easy, says Schmeichel

Important that team has a system: Saha

ANEESH DEY
CHENNAI

The current Manchester United team looks like a shadow of its past self, and its form this season and a five-year trophyless run, attest to the same.

"It is important that a team has a system and a structure and the players respect it. The club comes first and the players need the mentality to fight and uphold the values of the club," said former striker Louis Saha, at a media interaction as part of 'United We Play,' a grassroots development initiative of Apollo Tyres and Manchester United.

With interim manager Ralf Rangnick confirming that 'Top Four' is all but lost, further questions were raised about the onerous task newly appointed manager Erik ten Haag will have next season.

"He [Ten Hag] has to work on the culture of the dressing room first and then the playing. I have confidence in him but it is not going to be easy," said former United goalkeeper and treble-winner Schmeichel.

Legends: Former Manchester United players Mikael Silvestre, Wes Brown, Ronny Johnsen, Peter Schmeichel, Nemanja Vidic, Quinton Fortune and Louis Saha at an interaction on Sunday. • M VEDHAN

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

THE ALL-NEW

XL6

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